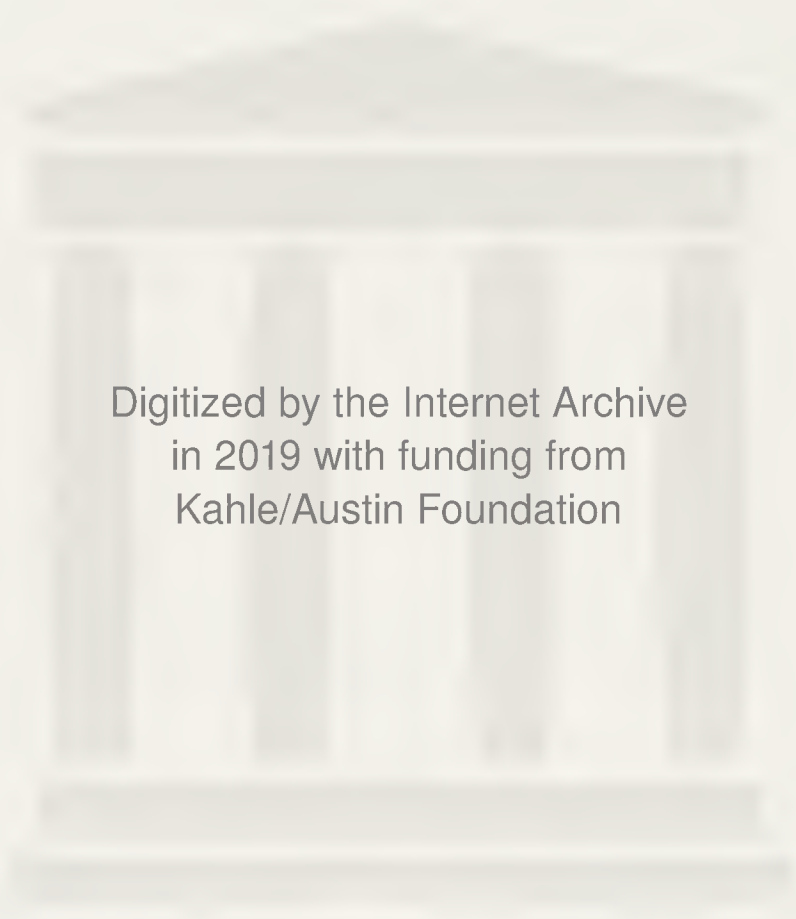


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CARNEGIE

H E R O  F U N D

C O M M I S S I O N



2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORTS



CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION

Established April 15, 1904, by Andrew Carnegie, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission was created to recognize outstanding acts of selfless heroism performed in the United States and Canada.

The single event that stimulated Mr. Carnegie to organize the Fund was the Harwick mine disaster near Pittsburgh on January 25, 1904, which claimed 181 lives. The victims included an engineer and a miner who went into the stricken mine in valiant attempts to rescue any survivors.

The tragedy and sacrifices so moved Mr. Carnegie that he promptly took action on his then-novel idea of honoring and helping the “heroes of civilization.” Writing in the Commission’s founding Deed of Trust (see page 5), he specified that each hero to be recognized, or the next of kin, was to receive a medal reciting the heroic deed it commemorated. The Commission was empowered also to make monetary gifts. Given to the heroes or their families, the grants include continuing support, scholarship assistance, and death benefits. Nearly \$32 million has been given to the awardees or their survivors over the life of the Fund.

Recommendations for awards may be made by anyone having knowledge of such outstanding acts of bravery. Awards are open to all civilian citizens of and visitors to the two countries under regulations presented in detail on the subsequent pages of this report. Each act is investigated as to fact and degree of risk involved and is evaluated by the Commission on the basis of the results of the investigation.

The Commission is a private operating foundation, classed as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. Visit the Commission’s Web site for further information: www.carnegiehero.org

UNWAVERING FOCUS

The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission is the first of that small band of Andrew Carnegie's creations that specializes in locating a particular kind of human behavior, investigating it, evaluating it against a well-designed set of standards, and judging that behavior against those standards. In this we have much in common with the judiciary, especially the criminal courts, but the similarity ends there. While the courts deal with one extreme and dismal end of the spectrum of human behavior, we deal happily with the other. We search the U.S. and Canada for those among us who have risked their lives to save other human beings.



The Hero Fund lies at the extreme end of another spectrum, as well. Other Carnegie-created organizations deal with broad issues of culture, science, and war and peace on a global scale. We deal with intensely personal moral decisions by specific individuals. Many of the heroic actions we recognize take place in great isolation—at sea, in the wilderness, or along a lonely highway. The rescuer could often make the anonymous decision to walk away, without repercussions. Even when a crowd is present, the rescuer has the option to remain a passive onlooker. We find and recognize

those heroic individuals who do not walk away, those who do not remain in the crowd.

The Hero Fund has developed award criteria based on Carnegie's 1904 Deed of Trust and its own experience. When I first came to the organization in 1992, I was struck by the simplicity, elegance, and completeness of the award criteria as a means of evaluating the altruism of an actor in a rescue. The Hero Fund has applied these criteria and made 9,327 awards in 106 years, or currently about 100 a year, more or less. That is an annual rate of about one in 3.4 million residents of the U.S. and Canada.

If we are to continue our mission, we must be good financial stewards. The market crash of 2008 affected our portfolio as it did everyone else's, but we had enjoyed good performance in the years preceding. As a result, the effects were unpleasant but survivable. We had good control of our budget going into the crisis and were able to flex expenditures down a bit to minimize the demands on the portfolio in the downturn. One such adjustment was to issue this report on a biennial basis, knowing that announcement of new awards is kept current through our website and quarterly newsletter.

When I became the seventh president of the Commission in 2001, a reporter called to ask about my plans for the organization. Since my predecessor had served for 22 years, he assumed that I surely had changes in mind. I replied that my mission was not change, but rather maintaining the Hero Fund's unwavering focus on the enduring values of heroism and altruism. That turned out to be true as far as it went, but in retrospect there have been changes. In particular, we have become much more effective at communicating to awardees the history of the Carnegie Medal. For our centennial in 2004 we produced a book and a video designed for this purpose, and we have stepped up efforts to award selected medals in person. We are working to expand communications with and among the awardees, which they seem to enjoy. It is also our pleasure to report to the public, not so much about the Commission as about the heroes we honor and the heroic acts for which we have made these awards.



Mark Laskow
President

DEED OF TRUST

TO THE HERO FUND COMMISSION

GENTLEMEN: We live in a heroic age. Not seldom are we thrilled by deeds of heroism where men or women are injured or lose their lives in attempting to preserve or rescue their fellows; such the heroes of civilization. The heroes of barbarism maimed or killed theirs.

I have long felt that the heroes and those dependent upon them should be freed from pecuniary cares resulting from their heroism, and, as a fund for this purpose, I have transferred to the Commission five million dollars of First Collateral Five Per Cent. Bonds of the United States Steel Corporation, the proceeds to be used as follows:

FIRST. To place those following peaceful vocations, who have been injured in heroic effort to save human life, in somewhat better positions pecuniarily than before, until again able to work. In the case of death, the widow and children, or other dependents, to be provided for until she remarries, and the children until they reach a self-supporting age. For exceptional children exceptional grants may be made for exceptional education. Grants of sums of money may also be made to heroes or heroines as the Commission thinks advisable — each case to be judged on its merits.

SECOND. No grant is to be continued unless it be soberly and properly used, and the recipients remain respectable, well-behaved members of the community, but the heroes and heroines are to be given a fair trial, no matter what their antecedents. Heroes deserve pardon and a fresh start.

THIRD. A medal shall be given to the hero, or widow, or next of kin, which shall recite the heroic deed it commemorates, that descendants may know and be proud of their descent. The medal shall be given for the heroic act, even if the doer be uninjured, and also a sum of money, should the Commission deem such gift desirable.

FOURTH. Many cities provide pensions for policemen, firemen, teachers, and others, and some may give rewards for acts of heroism. All these and other facts the Commission will take into account and act accordingly in making grants. Nothing could be further from my intention than to deaden or interfere with these most creditable provisions, doubly precious as showing public and municipal appreciation of faithful and heroic service. I ask from the Commission most careful guard against this danger. The medal can, of course, be offered in such cases. Whether something more can not judiciously be done, at the request of, or with the approval of, the city authorities, the Commission shall determine. I hope there can be.

FIFTH. The claims upon the Fund for some years can not exhaust it. After years, however, pensioners will become numerous. Should the Commission find, after allowing liberally for this, that a surplus will remain, it has power to make grants in case of accidents (preferably where a hero has appeared) to those injured. The action taken in the recent Harwick Mine accident, where Heroes Taylor and Lyle lost their lives, is an illustration. The community first raised a fund of forty thousand dollars, which was duplicated by me after waiting until the generosity of the community had full scope. Here again the Commission should be exceedingly careful, as in this case, not to deaden, but to stimulate employers or communities to do their part, for such action benefits givers themselves as well as recipients.

SIXTH. It seems probable that cities and employers on this continent will ultimately be placed under similar conditions to those of Britain, Germany, and other European States, and required to provide against accidents to employees. Therefore, the Commission, by a two-thirds vote, may devote any surplus that accrues beyond providing for heroes and their dependents (which provision must never be abandoned) to such other modes of benefiting those in want, chiefly caused through no fault of their own (such as

drunkenness, laziness, crimes, etc.) but through exceptional circumstances, in such manner and to such extent as the Commission thinks advisable and likely to do more good than if such sums were given to those injured by accident, where the latter may be suitably provided for by law, or otherwise.

SEVENTH. The field embraced by the Fund is the United States of America, the Dominion of Canada, the Colony of Newfoundland, and the waters thereof. The sea is the scene of many heroic acts. No action more heroic than that of doctors and nurses volunteering their services in the case of epidemics. Railroad employees are remarkable for heroism. All these and similar cases are embraced. Whenever heroism is displayed by man or woman in saving human life, the Fund applies.

EIGHTH. No personal liability will attach to members for any act of the Commission. The Commission has power to fill vacancies.

NINTH. The Commission has full power to sell, invest, or reinvest all funds; to employ all officials, including Secretary, traveling agents to visit and oversee beneficiaries, etc. and to fix their compensation. Members of the Commission shall be reimbursed all expenses incurred, including traveling expenses attending meetings. The President shall be granted such honoraria as the Commission thinks proper and as he can be prevailed upon to accept.

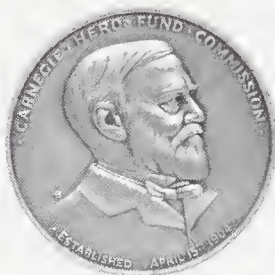
TENTH. An annual report, including a detailed statement of sums and medals granted and the reasons therefor, shall be made each year and published in at least one newspaper in the principal cities of the countries embraced by the Fund. A finely executed roll of the heroes and heroines shall be kept displayed in the office at Pittsburgh.

Andrew Carnegie

NEW YORK, MARCH 12, 1904

WITNESS, LOUISE WHITFIELD CARNEGIE

THE CARNEGIE MEDAL



*The Carnegie Medal is awarded to one who,
at the risk of his or her own life, saves or
attempts to save the life of another person.*



Mr. Carnegie's embossed profile dominates the front of the medal. On the reverse side in low relief is the geographical outline of the United States and Canada, the countries to which the Fund applies. In higher relief the seals of these countries are shown, with that of the United States below the inscription plate, and that of Canada above it.

Relief work surrounding the inscription plate reveals a sprig of laurel, typifying glory, and above are sprigs of ivy, oak, and thistle, for friendship, strength, and persistence. Encircling the relief work is a quotation from the New Testament (John 15:13): "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

REQUIREMENTS FOR A CARNEGIE MEDAL

- There must be conclusive evidence that the person performing the act voluntarily risked his or her own life to an extraordinary degree in saving or attempting to save the life of another person, or voluntarily sacrificed himself or herself in a heroic manner for the benefit of others.
- The act of rescue must be one in which no full measure of responsibility exists between the rescuer and the rescued.
- The act must have been performed in the United States, Canada, or the waters thereof and must be brought to the attention of the Commission within two years of the date of rescue.
- Persons *not* eligible for awards are: those whose duties in following their regular vocations require them to perform such acts, unless the rescues are clearly beyond the line of duty; members of the armed services; children considered by the Commission to be too young to comprehend the risks involved; and members of the same family, except in cases of outstanding heroism where the rescuer loses his or her life or is severely injured.

AWARDS

- A medal is presented to the person performing the act or, in case of death, to the widow, widower, or the next of kin.
- When a rescuer loses his or her life in the performance of an act, contributions may be made toward the livelihood of the dependents. If the rescuer is disabled in the performance of the act, periodic contributions may be made to his or her livelihood. If the rescuer is not injured, a monetary grant may nevertheless be made, should the Commission deem such gift desirable. Awardees and the dependents of posthumous and disabled awardees are eligible for scholarship assistance.
- The benefits to be paid and the manner of payment are determined by the Commission after consideration of the circumstances of each awardee. Continuing benefits are paid only if there is clear need for such assistance and only if such benefits are soberly and properly used and the recipients remain respectable members of their communities.



Awardees of the Carnegie Medal in 2008 include Deborah Chiborak, left, and Gerard Beernaerts, both of Winnipeg, Man. They pulled Winifred M. Lindsay, center, from the path of a train after she fell from her mobility scooter onto a railroad track.



Amarillo, Texas, Police Officer DeWayne W. Griffin was awarded the medal in 2008 for acting well beyond the line of duty in saving a woman from her burning house. He donated the accompanying financial grant to two agencies in Amarillo that helped him and his family when he was a boy. Photo, by Matt Strasen, is courtesy of the Amarillo Globe-News.

HEROIC ACTS RECOGNIZED DURING 2008

The following persons were cited by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission in 2008 for having performed outstanding acts of heroism. In each case, a Carnegie Medal and a financial grant were awarded.



QEMAL AGAJ

Tampa, Florida

Qemal Agaj helped to save Maureen A. Jennings from drowning, Cocoa Beach, Florida, October 22, 2007. Jennings, 68, was swimming in the Atlantic Ocean when she was caught in a current while attempting to return to shore. Agaj, 65, retired factory worker, and others on the beach were alerted to her situation. He and another man entered the water and waded and swam out to Jennings. They then pushed her a distance toward shore before succumbing to the current themselves. Jennings struggled through wadable water to reach shore safely, receiving aid en route. Responding members of a rescue team recovered Agaj from the water, and then, joined by a lifeguard, returned the other man to the beach. Agaj recovered from exhaustion and ingesting water, but the other man drowned. 80978-9237



RICHARD T. ANTONINO

Plymouth, Massachusetts

Richard T. Antonino rescued James C. Randolph from burning, Plymouth, Massachusetts, April 24, 2007. Randolph, 44, remained in the driver's seat of his car after an accident in which the car struck two other vehicles and a utility pole. The car came to rest upright against the pole, with flames that had erupted issuing up along the sides of the car. Antonino, 37, charter boat captain, heard the crash from his home nearby. He ran to the scene and, seeing Randolph slumped over the steering wheel, opened the driver's door. He leaned into the car and attempted to release Randolph's safety belt but was repelled by the heat. He entered again and released the belt and then with difficulty grasped Randolph about the upper torso and pulled him from the vehicle. Others helped Antonino drag the man to safety. Randolph required hospitalization for treatment of his injuries, which included second-degree burns on both arms. Antonino was also taken to the hospital, for treatment of a second-degree burn to his left arm. Both men recovered. 80282-9193



WESLEY JAMES AUTREY, SR.

New York, New York

Wesley James Autrey, Sr., saved Cameron P. Hollopeter from being struck by a train, New York, New York, January 2, 2007. Hollopeter, 20, fell from the platform in a subway station and lay atop the nearest track as a train was approaching at about 15 m.p.h. on that track. Autrey, 50, construction worker, was nearby on the platform and saw him fall. Seeing the lights of the approaching train, which was then about 200 feet away, Autrey jumped down to the track level and in repeated attempts tried to move Hollopeter back to the platform. Although in emergency braking, the train bore down on them as Autrey then pushed Hollopeter into the trough between the rails

and lay atop him. The front of the train immediately passed over them, the train stopping with its second car over the men. They were removed by rescue workers several minutes later, after power to the track was shut down. Bruised, Hollopeter required hospitalization. 79965-9170



MICHAEL WILLIAM BALDWIN

Wausau, Wisconsin

Michael William Baldwin helped to rescue Justin P. Carstensen from burning, Merrill, Wisconsin, July 31, 2007. Following a highway accident involving a pickup truck and the pickup that he was driving, Justin, 17, remained in the driver's seat, unconscious and restrained by his safety belt. Both vehicles had left the roadway and came to rest upright in a grassy ditch next to each other. Fire broke out in the engine compartment of Justin's vehicle and at the undercarriage, and grass in the immediate vicinity also caught fire. Traveling on the same highway, Baldwin, 41, delivery driver, and his wife arrived at the scene. They approached the driver's door of Justin's pickup, which Baldwin peeled open. He extended his upper body into the cab and attempted to turn off the truck's ignition, as the engine was racing. Intense heat thwarted the effort. Baldwin then released Justin's safety belt, but Justin remained entangled by it even as he slumped partially through the driver's door opening. Baldwin's wife reached into the cab to support Justin as Baldwin used wire snips, provided by a bystander, to cut the belt; he stomped on flames at his feet as he did so. Baldwin and his wife then grasped Justin by the arms, pulled him from the pickup, and dragged him to safety. Flames grew to envelope Justin's pickup as well as the other truck. Justin was hospitalized for treatment of extensive burns and injuries sustained in the accident. Baldwin suffered minor burns, scrapes, and bruises but did not require medical treatment, and he recovered. 80625-9196



SANDRA S. BALDWIN

Wausau, Wisconsin

Sandra S. Baldwin helped to rescue Justin P. Carstensen from burning, Merrill, Wisconsin, July 31, 2007. Following a highway accident involving a pickup truck and the pickup that he was driving, Justin, 17, remained in the driver's seat, unconscious and restrained by his safety belt. Both vehicles had left the roadway and came to rest upright in a grassy ditch next to each other. Fire broke out in the engine compartment of Justin's vehicle and at the undercarriage, and grass in the immediate vicinity also caught fire. Traveling on the same highway, Baldwin, 38, registered nurse, and her husband arrived at the scene. They approached the driver's door of Justin's pickup, and after Baldwin's husband peeled it open, Baldwin reached inside to support Justin as her husband worked to free him from his safety belt, stomping on flames at his feet as he did so. Baldwin and her husband then grasped Justin by the arms, pulled him from the pickup, and dragged him to safety. Flames grew to envelope Justin's pickup as well as the other truck. Justin was hospitalized for treatment of extensive burns and injuries sustained in the accident. 80626-9197



TIMOTHY MICHAEL BARRY

Ventura, California

Timothy Michael Barry died helping to save Priscilla L. Yothers from drowning, Ventura, California, December 26, 2006. While on the beach with her mother, Priscilla, 4, was carried into the rough surf of the Pacific Ocean by the backwash of a wave. Her granduncle, Barry, 54, assistant cameraman, and others immediately responded from a nearby house just off the beach. Barry ran onto a rock jetty that extended into the water at the scene and proceeded to a point closer to Priscilla. Fully attired, he then entered the water, swam to Priscilla, and established a hold on her, keeping her at the surface despite the rough conditions. From shore, another man swam out to them,

and he returned Priscilla to safety on the beach. Barry was then seen floating farther out, at a point about 150 feet from the beach. Arriving rescue personnel recovered him from the water but could not revive him, as he had drowned. Priscilla was hospitalized for treatment of hypothermia and other ill effects, and she recovered. 79958-9165



WILLIAM DEAN BASLER

Las Vegas, Nevada

William Dean Basler rescued Kristy A. Dudley and Stacey L. Taylor from a runaway carriage, Indianapolis, Indiana, April 8, 2007. Sightseeing, friends Dudley, 26, and Taylor, 28, were passengers inside a closed carriage that was being pulled by a horse on a six-lane, center city street. A van approached from behind and struck the carriage, sending its driver to the pavement. Spooked, the horse continued, at a trot, causing the carriage to lurch. Witnessing the accident, Basler, 19, began to chase the carriage, but when a taxicab stopped beside him, he boarded it and was driven to a point ahead of the runaway carriage. As the carriage approached him, having covered 1,000 feet, Basler climbed onto its side and then forward to its bench, which served as the driver's seat. He seized the reins and pulled, stopping the horse, but the momentum of the carriage prompted the horse to resume running. Basler took the horse and carriage to a stop about 600 feet beyond the point where he had boarded the carriage. Jostled, Dudley and Taylor were taken to the hospital for observation. 80214-9211



JEFFREY S. BASS

Miami, Florida

Jeffrey S. Bass helped to save Norberto Martinez from being struck by a boat, Key Largo, Florida, September 29, 2007. Martinez, 67, was thrown from his 18-foot boat into the Atlantic Ocean when the boat struck a channel marker about a half-mile from shore. The boat continued in circles around him, striking him and inflicting severe injury. Bass, 40, attorney, and another

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man were approaching the scene in the other man's smaller, lightweight boat when they saw the out-of-control boat circling Martinez, who was floating face down and inert. After the unmanned boat made a pass, the other man maneuvered the smaller boat to Martinez. Lying on the exposed deck at the bow, Bass reached down and secured a hold on Martinez. The other man then backed the smaller boat from the path of the circling one to a point of safety. He helped Bass lift Martinez aboard and then took him to shore. Martinez required hospitalization for treatment of his injuries, including lacerations to his back, and Bass sustained bruising. Both men recovered.

80857-9214



GERARD BEERNAERTS

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Gerard Beernaerts helped to save Winifred M. Lindsay from being struck by a train, Winnipeg, Manitoba, April 17, 2007. Lindsay, 89, was crossing a railroad track in her mobility scooter when one of the scooter's wheels snagged. The scooter toppled, sending her to the pavement between the rails. With the scooter lying atop her, Lindsay was unable to get up. The crossing's gates and bells were activated, indicating an approaching train, which was traveling on that track at about 35 m.p.h. A city bus arrived at the crossing, and its driver, Beernaerts, 50, ran to Lindsay on seeing her lying on the track. Another motorist had responded, and as she leaned forward and grasped Lindsay, Beernaerts pulled the scooter off her. With the train bearing down on them, although in emergency braking, Beernaerts and the other motorist pulled Lindsay from the track. The other motorist then fell beside the track, the front of the train passing them within seconds. The train continued for more than 600 feet before stopping. (See photo, p. 10.) 81181-9185



PETER JAMES BENEDICT

Cicero, New York

Peter James Benedict helped to save Michael D. LaSala, Josiah S. Thompson, and Sheralyn J. Wellman from drowning and helped attempt to save Anna E. Wright, Ellisburg, New York, July 15, 2007. On a swimming outing, friends Michael, 16; Josiah, 15; Sheralyn, 13; and Anna, 17, were unable to return to shore against the strong current and six-foot waves in Lake Ontario at the mouth of Sandy Creek. On shore in the vicinity, Benedict, 33, manager, and his brother-in-law were alerted to the situation and set out from the creek in search of the teens in a 14-foot aluminum boat that was equipped with an outboard motor. Fighting the pounding waves, the men located Michael at a point about 750 feet from shore and pulled him aboard. Although water was entering the boat, they searched for the others, spotting Josiah and Sheralyn in the troughs between the waves about 125 feet away. Taking the boat toward them, the men threw Sheralyn a life jacket and pulled Josiah aboard. Benedict entered the water to support Sheralyn after he and his brother-in-law concluded that the boat had reached its capacity under the conditions. For several minutes Benedict remained with Sheralyn, the waves submerging them repeatedly, as the brother-in-law took Michael and Josiah to shore. He then returned to Sheralyn and Benedict, Benedict aiding Sheralyn into the boat before boarding himself. The men took Sheralyn to safety and again headed out into the lake, to search for Anna. Unsuccessful, they returned to shore. Anna's body was found two days later. 80608-9227



WALTER M. BERESFORD

Belleville, New Jersey

Walter M. Beresford rescued Frances M. Greene from burning, Irvington, New Jersey, April 13, 2006. Greene, 70, was on the second floor of her two-story house after fire erupted in a bedroom on that floor. Flames issuing from the bedroom window caught the attention of Beresford, 57, a fire

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captain for another municipality, who, off duty, was in the neighborhood. Beresford ran to the burning house and with another man forced entry through the front door. He searched the first floor for any occupants and then started upstairs, having to crawl because of dense, black smoke filling the stairway. On the second floor, he heard Greene calling for help. He crawled across a hall and into the burning bedroom, where flames issued from the walls and ceiling. Finding Greene lying on the floor, Beresford secured a hold on her and, seated on the floor, pushed himself back to the top of the stairs, dragging her. He went down the stairs with her to a landing, where he attempted to use a rug in removing her from the house. Firefighters arrived and helped move Greene away from the structure as flames spread throughout the second floor. Both Greene and Beresford were taken by ambulance to the hospital, where they were treated for second-degree burns, from which they recovered. 80403-9205



PHILIP BEVACQUA

Totowa, New Jersey

Philip Bevacqua rescued John P. Sole from assault, Totowa, New Jersey, July 16, 2007. On a residential street, Sole, 41, a police officer, struggled against the armed man he was trying to apprehend. The man had just shot Sole twice and at gunpoint forced him to the pavement. Bevacqua, 77, retired police officer, immediately ran to the scene from his nearby home after hearing the gunshots. He approached the assailant and punched him repeatedly, freeing Sole to retrieve his service weapon. Sole then fired at the assailant, felling him. Other police officers arrived and secured him. Sole required hospital treatment for his wounds. 80522-9190



CLAYTON A. BOUCHER

Remsen, New York

Clayton A. Boucher helped to save Lyle M. Robison from burning, Holland Patent, New York, July 10, 2007. Unconscious, Robison, 67, remained in the driver's seat of his car after an accident in which the vehicle left the highway, overturned onto its passenger side, and came to rest against a concrete abutment in a ditch adjoining the roadway. Flames broke out in the vehicle's engine compartment. Traveling on the same highway, Boucher, 44, electronics technician, arrived at the scene and learned that the vehicle was occupied. He entered the ditch and approached the burning car from behind, where he broke out its rear window with a rock. Despite intense heat and dense smoke in the car, Boucher stepped inside through the window opening. He freed Robison of his safety belt and then lifted him up to the driver's door, where others who had opened the door pulled Robison from the car and took him to safety on the highway. Boucher stepped to safety through the rear window of the car less than a minute before flames intensified to enter it. Robison required hospitalization for treatment of his injuries, and Boucher suffered minor cuts to his hands. Both men recovered. 80546-9212



JASON CHRISTOPHER BYRNES

North Syracuse, New York

Jason Christopher Byrnes helped to save Michael D. LaSala, Josiah S. Thompson, and Sheralyn J. Wellman from drowning and helped attempt to save Anna E. Wright, Ellisburg, New York, July 15, 2007. On a swimming outing, friends Michael, 16; Josiah, 15; Sheralyn, 13; and Anna, 17, were unable to return to shore against the strong current and six-foot waves in Lake Ontario at the mouth of Sandy Creek. On shore in the vicinity, Byrnes, 33, account executive, and his brother-in-law were alerted to the situation and set out from the creek in search of the teens in a 14-foot aluminum boat that was equipped with an outboard motor. Fighting the pounding waves, the men located Michael at a point about 750 feet from shore and pulled him aboard.

Although water was entering the boat, they searched for the others, spotting Josiah and Sheralyn in the troughs between the waves about 125 feet away. Taking the boat toward them, the men threw Sheralyn a life jacket and pulled Josiah aboard. Byrne's brother-in-law entered the water to support Sheralyn after he and Byrnes concluded that the boat had reached its capacity under the conditions. Byrnes took Michael and Josiah to shore and then returned for Sheralyn and his brother-in-law. They took her to safety and again headed out into the lake, to search for Anna. Unsuccessful, they returned to shore. Anna's body was found two days later. Byrnes sustained bruises to his arms and legs, and he recovered. 80609-9226



MICHAEL J. CARNEY
Freeport, Pennsylvania

Michael J. Carney died saving John L. Ressani from being struck by a temper mill roll, Vandergrift, Pennsylvania, August 24, 2004. Coworkers Ressani, 48, and Carney, 50, were changing the two stacked rolls of a temper mill at a plant of the steel company where they were employed. They and another coworker were rigging the top roll to an overhead crane for repositioning when the crane began to move unexpectedly. As the crane moved the 14-ton roll toward Ressani by its secured end, Carney shouted a warning to him and then approached and pushed him hard from the roll's path. Carney then turned, but before he could reach safety, the unsecured end of the roll dropped, pinning him to the floor. Bruised and sore, Ressani was treated at the hospital, and he recovered. Carney died at the scene. 79605-9172



JAMES C. CARPENTER
Gloversville, New York

James C. Carpenter saved Chelsea M. Palma from burning, Gloversville, New York, November 8, 2007. Chelsea, 5, and her sister were on the second floor of their grandmother's two-story house after fire broke out in the kitchen, on the first floor. At his home next door, Carpenter, 28, warehouse

worker, was alerted to the fire. He ran to the house, entered through the front door, and approached the stairway, which was adjacent to the burning kitchen. In dense smoke, Carpenter went to the top of the stairs and found the girls. Chelsea grasped him, but her sister retreated to a bedroom. Carrying Chelsea, Carpenter turned and went down the stairs. By then, flames were spreading to the stairway and issued along its ceiling. Carpenter exited the house with Chelsea as another man entered and went upstairs for her sister, whom he then delivered to safety. 80831-9228



GREGORY J. CARSON

Slidell, Louisiana

Gregory J. Carson died attempting to help save Joy R. Anderson and Sharon R. Haskins from drowning, Miramar Beach, Florida, September 11, 2007. Holding to a small surfboard, Anderson, 49, and Haskins, 24, struggled to return to the beach from a point about 300 feet into the Gulf of Mexico. They called for help. From the beach, Carson, 43, supervisor, who was a member of their party, entered the water along with another man and swam out toward them. Carson's son, who was wading to shore in the vicinity, turned and also swam out. The other man reached the women and struggled to take them to shore by towing the surfboard. They ultimately reached safety, but Carson and his son submerged. They were shortly removed from the water by others but could not be revived. Anderson, Haskins, and the other man required hospital treatment, and they recovered. 80684-9223



TIMOTHY CHARLES

Scranton, Pennsylvania

Timothy Charles rescued Helen L. Lashinski from burning, Scranton, Pennsylvania, August 3, 2007. Lashinski, 81, was on the second floor of her two-story house after fire broke out at night in the kitchen, on the first floor, and engulfed it. On duty, Charles, 28, was one of three police officers who responded to the scene before firefighters. They gained access to the house

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through its front door and, hearing Lashinski call for help, entered, but intense heat and dense smoke forced them out. Charles re-entered and, his eyes closed against the heat, crawled through an entry to the foot of the stairway, which was adjacent to the kitchen. He climbed the stairs and found Lashinski on a step near the top. He grasped her about the chest and carried her downstairs and to the front door as flames spread from the kitchen doorway to the stairwell. Lashinski was hospitalized for treatment of smoke inhalation and burns, and she recovered. Charles inhaled smoke, and he too recovered. 80639-9208



DOMINIQUE CHATMAN

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dominique Chatman died attempting to help save Joy R. Anderson and Sharon R. Haskins from drowning, Miramar Beach, Florida, September 11, 2007. Holding to a small surfboard, Anderson, 49, and Haskins, 24, struggled to return to the beach from a point about 300 feet into the Gulf of Mexico. They called for help. A member of their party, Chatman, 24, supervisor, who was Anderson's great-nephew, was wading ashore in the vicinity. He turned and swam out toward the women. From the beach, Chatman's father and another man entered the water and also swam out toward them. The other man reached the women and struggled to take them to shore by towing the surfboard. They ultimately reached safety, but Chatman and his father submerged. They were shortly removed from the water by others but could not be revived. Anderson, Haskins, and the other man required hospital treatment, and they recovered. 80685-9222



CRISTINA CARRERA CHAVEZ

Thousand Palms, California

Cristina Carrera Chavez helped to save Jack Brownstone from drowning, Rancho Mirage, California, May 4, 2007. Brownstone, 87, remained in the driver's seat of his car, which had entered a lake at a condominium complex and was beginning to sink nose first in water about 20 feet deep. Chavez, 21, caretaker, witnessed the accident from nearby. She ran to the bank of the lake and, despite her inability to swim, waded into the water and paddled out to the car, which was about 25 feet from the bank. At the driver's side, she reached into the vehicle through the opened window of the driver's door, grasped Brownstone, and pulled him head first from the car. Chavez struggled to keep Brownstone afloat, submerging repeatedly. The director of security at the complex arrived about then, and she too entered the water and swam out. She grasped Brownstone by the shirt and with Chavez returned him to wadable water, where a man provided Brownstone aid in leaving the lake. Chavez and the security director also exited the lake to safety. Brownstone was taken to the hospital for observation, and Chavez was treated there for minor ill effects. They recovered. 80292-9166



DEBORAH CHIBORAK

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Deborah Chiborak helped to save Winifred M. Lindsay from being struck by a train, Winnipeg, Manitoba, April 17, 2007. Lindsay, 89, was crossing a railroad track in her mobility scooter when one of the scooter's wheels snagged. The scooter toppled, sending her to the pavement between the rails. With the scooter lying atop her, Lindsay was unable to get up. A passing motorist, Chiborak, 51, restaurant owner and operator, saw the accident. She had parked and started toward Lindsay when the crossing's gates and bells were activated, indicating an approaching train, which was traveling on that track at about 35 m.p.h. As Chiborak leaned forward and grasped Lindsay, the

driver of a city bus arrived and pulled the scooter off her. With the train bearing down on them, although in emergency braking, Chiborak and the bus driver pulled Lindsay from the track. Chiborak then fell beside the track, the front of the train passing them within seconds. The train continued for more than 600 feet before stopping. Lindsay was uninjured, but Chiborak suffered a strained back and required hospital treatment. (See photo, p. 10.) 80243-9184



KYLE CHRISTOPHERSON

Oxford, Georgia

Kyle Christopherson saved Daniel C. Broaddus from drowning, Daytona Beach Shores, Florida, July 23, 2007. Broaddus, 47, was wading in the Atlantic Ocean when he was pulled out from shore by a rip current. He struggled to return but made no progress and became tired. Christopherson, 18, university student, was at a condominium pool adjacent to the beach in that vicinity when he became aware of Broaddus's difficulty. He immediately ran to the beach and into the choppy water and swam to Broaddus, who was about 150 feet from shore. When he touched bottom and realized that he was on a submerged sandbar, Christopherson grasped Broaddus and pulled him onto the sandbar. They stood there momentarily to recapture their strength. Christopherson then established a hold on Broaddus, who was exhausted, and swam toward shore on a diagonal course to avoid the rip current. Using only one arm to swim, Christopherson made slow progress. When they were in wadable water, a responding lifeguard met them and aided in taking Broaddus to the beach. He was given oxygen, and he recovered. 80683-9218



JEFFERY ALLEN CONNELL

Mason, Michigan

Jeffery Allen Connell helped to rescue Aron E. Wallace from burning, Vandercook Lake, Michigan, June 29, 2007. Wallace, 84, was in his one-story house after an electrical fire broke out in the living room at night. Connell, 33, diesel mechanic, was driving in the vicinity when he saw flames issuing through a window of the house's living room. He stopped at the scene and reported the fire, learning that Wallace was still inside the structure. After briefly seeing Wallace walk through the living room, Connell forced open the front door. He entered the structure and, with a water hose, fought flames that were near the door. Going to the floor in the intense heat and dense smoke, which hampered his vision and breathing, Connell maneuvered toward the sound of Wallace's voice, using a wall of the living room to guide him. He found Wallace in the adjacent kitchen, where he was sitting on the floor, semiconscious and badly burned. Grasping Wallace by the hands, Connell struggled to drag him to the front door. He was joined by a responding deputy sheriff, who helped in getting Wallace to the door, where others helped take him to safety. Wallace was taken to the hospital and died the next day. Connell also required hospital treatment, for smoke inhalation. He recovered. 80519-9180



COLUMBUS COOK

Jacksonville, Texas

Columbus Cook saved Darrion D. High from burning, Jacksonville, Texas, April 13, 2007. High, 38, was in a bedroom of his grandmother's one-story house after fire broke out in a bedroom across the hall and filled the structure with dense smoke. Alerted to the fire, Cook, 49, truck driver, immediately responded to the scene from another residence in the neighborhood. He entered the burning house through the front door, but heavy smoke, which precluded visibility, nearly overwhelmed him, forcing him out. A second attempt was likewise abandoned. Cook entered the house a third time and, crouched over, felt his way about 25 feet to High's bedroom. Finding High standing just inside the doorway, Cook picked him up and carried him to the front door as flames issued into the hall from the room of origin. They exited the house to safety. Cook suffered a minor burn to one leg, and he recovered.

80372-9171



H. LEE COOPER

Westport, Connecticut

H. Lee Cooper helped to save Erika M. Hernandez and saved Michael C. Sagaro from drowning, Palm Beach, Florida, May 27, 2008. As Erika, 12, struggled in the Atlantic Ocean, her mother, on the beach, shouted for help, attracting the attention of Sagaro, 32, and a friend. They entered the water and started to swim out to Erika, who was about 180 feet from shore. Sagaro reached Erika and, although very tired, began to return her to shore. On the beach, Cooper, 44, sales executive, was also alerted to the situation. He entered the water and swam about 150 feet to Sagaro and Erika. Telling Sagaro he would return for him, Cooper took hold of Erika and towed her to shore, and then he swam back out to Sagaro. He placed an arm across

Sagaro's chest and swam to shore with him. Thinking there were others who might need aid, Cooper swam out a third time, with a rescue float. Erika and Sagaro were taken to the hospital for treatment. Sagaro's friend drowned. Cooper was tired after returning to shore, but he recovered. 80363-9177



KATIE M. CORRADO

Lansdale, Pennsylvania

Katie M. Corrado helped to save Gregory A. Steirer from drowning, Beach Haven, New Jersey, May 28, 2006. While swimming in the Atlantic Ocean, Steirer, 26, called for help as he attempted to return to shore against a strong current in the very cold water. Hearing him, Corrado, 23, marketing assistant, and a friend, who were on the beach in the vicinity, immediately entered the water and swam out to him, reaching him at a point about 170 feet from shore. Also unable to return against the current, they struggled to support Steirer. Another man swam out to them from the beach, taking two short surfboards. Steirer and Corrado's friend each lay atop one of the boards, after which Corrado swam to the side of a jetty that was in the vicinity. She attempted to climb onto it, but the rough water battered her against it. A responding police officer aided her to safety, after which she was given oxygen and then taken to the hospital for treatment of abrasions and contusions. Her friend, Steirer, and the other man reached shore safely, with aid from responding rescue personnel. Steirer also required hospital treatment, for hypothermia, and he recovered. 80000-9159



DIANE D. COX

Newbury Park, California

Diane D. Cox rescued Sandra Ruiz from assault, Newbury Park, California, August 12, 2007. At night, Ruiz, 33, was attacked by a man armed with a meat cleaver in the courtyard of her apartment complex. Cox, 52, administrative assistant, who also lived in the complex, was alerted to the attack. She ran to the scene, where she saw the assailant atop Ruiz, striking her. Shouting at

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him to stop, Cox jumped on the assailant, knocking him off Ruiz and to the ground. Although the assailant struck Cox on the face with the cleaver, inflicting a significant injury, she got on top of him and held down his weapon hand. Another resident of the complex arrived, disarmed the assailant, and helped Cox detain him for police, who responded shortly and arrested him. Ruiz required extensive hospitalization for treatment of severe injuries. Cox was also taken to the hospital, for treatment of blunt trauma to the side of her face, including a fracture and a laceration that required suturing. 80677-9219



LEANUE DAVIS, JR.

Fayetteville, North Carolina

Leanue Davis, Jr. rescued Jocelyn L. Palma from burning, Gloversville, New York, November 8, 2007. Jocelyn, 3, and her sister were on the second floor of their grandmother's two-story house after fire broke out in the kitchen, on the first floor. A neighbor had entered the house and was leaving it with the sister as Davis, 46, a disabled construction worker who lived in the house, arrived home. Davis entered through the front door and approached the stairway, which was adjacent to the burning kitchen. By then, flames were spreading to the stairway and issued along its ceiling. In dense smoke, he went upstairs and, calling out for Jocelyn, found her exiting a bedroom. He picked her up and returned to the top of the stairs but found his course blocked by deteriorating conditions. Davis took the girl into a bedroom, opened a window, and lowered her by the arms to two men standing on the ground. He then jumped from the window to safety. Jocelyn was treated at the hospital for first-degree burns to her arms and cuts to her face, and she singed her hair. She recovered. Davis sustained minor burns to his forehead, forearms, and left leg. 80832-9229



CURTIS DAWSON

Astoria, Oregon

Curtis Dawson helped to rescue David M. Schmelzer from drowning, Astoria, Oregon, December 3, 2005. Schmelzer, 67, was the captain of a tugboat that was towing a barge on the Columbia River at night. The tugboat capsized in the swift ebb-tide current and floated upside down and partially submerged. Dawson, 47, assistant engineer, was working as a deckhand on the barge and witnessed the accident. Minutes later, he saw Schmelzer, unconscious, float toward the surface of the water alongside the barge. Although both the barge and the tugboat were then adrift, Dawson, fully attired, jumped five feet down into the river, despite the coldness of the water and limited visibility in the darkness. He swam to Schmelzer, grasped his jacket, and pulled his head above water. Realizing that they were being carried away from the barge, Dawson started to swim back to it, Schmelzer in tow. A deckhand threw a rope to Dawson and pulled the men to the side of the barge. With another man holding him, the deckhand leaned over the side of the barge, grasped Schmelzer, and with others worked with Dawson for several minutes to lift him to the barge deck. Cold and becoming numb, Dawson climbed and was aided from the water back to the deck. A bar pilot helicopter responded soon and lowered a sling that was used to lift Schmelzer from the water. He was taken ashore and then to the hospital, where he was admitted for treatment. Dawson also was taken to the hospital, where he was treated for cold-water immersion. Both men recovered.

80579-9182



SHANN DEON DAY, SR.

Fontana, California

Shann Deon Day, Sr., died attempting to save Melvin M. Rabb from drowning, Long Beach, California, October 23, 2007. Rabb, 27, jumped the 20 feet from a pier into the Pacific Ocean at a point about 600 feet from shore. He attempted to swim to shore but appeared to become fatigued in the 25-foot-

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deep water. Day, 36, handyman, who was fishing on the pier, responded to the approximate point from which Rabb jumped. Fully attired, he jumped into the water and swam about 50 feet to Rabb. Day grasped Rabb and held to him briefly before both men submerged. Responding rescue divers recovered Day's body about two hours later; he had drowned. Rabb's body was recovered four days later. 80812-9233



CLINT J. DENIKER

Grove City, Pennsylvania

Clint J. Deniker saved Thomas B. Stevenson, Sr., from burning, Grove City, Pennsylvania, April 4, 2008. Stevenson, 52, was the driver of a car that overturned in an accident on a rural road, came to rest on its roof, and caught fire in its engine area. Deniker, 35, conservation officer, saw the burning vehicle on leaving his nearby house. He drove to the scene, finding Stevenson unconscious and upside down, restrained by his safety belt with a portion of one leg extended through an opening in the wreckage on the driver's side of the car. Deniker pulled on the wreckage to widen the opening and then knelt beside the car and extended his upper body through the opening. He shook Stevenson, who did not respond. Deniker cut Stevenson's safety belt with a knife and freed his other leg, which was trapped. He grasped Stevenson by the ankles and pulled him, with difficulty, free of the vehicle. As he dragged Stevenson away from the car, flames entered its interior and spread nearly to engulf it. Stevenson was hospitalized two weeks for treatment of his injuries, but he was not burned. 81224-9230



KATHERINE M. DUMAS

Cathedral City, California

Katherine M. Dumas helped to save Jack Brownstone from drowning, Rancho Mirage, California, May 4, 2007. A woman pulled Brownstone, 87, from the driver's seat of his car, which had entered a lake at a condominium complex and was sinking nose first in water about 20 feet deep. Dumas, 44,

who was the director of security at the complex, was alerted by radio to the accident. Responding to the scene, she found Brownstone and the woman struggling to stay afloat at the car. Although not fully recovered from recent surgery, Dumas also entered the water and swam about 25 feet out to the car. She grasped Brownstone by the shirt and with the other woman returned him to wadable water, where a man provided Brownstone aid in leaving the lake. Dumas and the other woman also exited the lake to safety. Brownstone was taken to the hospital for observation, and Dumas was exhausted. They recovered. 80651-9167



TIMOTHY JOHN FOOTE
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Timothy John Foote rescued David H. Jauss from burning, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, October 29, 2007. Jauss, 78, lay unconscious on the floor of the family room, on the first floor of his two-story house, after fire broke out in that room at night. A neighbor, Foote, 45, mail carrier, was alerted to the fire and, barefoot, immediately responded to the scene. Finding the doors to the house locked, he entered the integral garage and broke through the door opening to the hall off the family room. Despite spreading flames in the family room in the vicinity of its hall doorway, including on the ceiling, Foote entered the room but found his course blocked by burning furniture and debris. Retreating to the garage for a shovel and for shoes from another responding neighbor, Foote re-entered the family room and pushed away some of the debris. Seeing Jauss on the floor, he approached and grasped him by the legs. He pulled Jauss into the hall and to the garage, where others took him to safety, Foote also leaving the structure. Jauss required extensive hospitalization for treatment, including surgery, of burns and smoke inhalation. Foote also suffered smoke inhalation. Both men recovered.

80778-9224



CONRAD FOURNEY

Boise, Idaho

Conrad Fourney saved Sarah R. Cox from drowning, Banks, Idaho, November 26, 2006. Cox, 57, was navigating rapids in the Payette River when the bow of her kayak became pinned among rocks in the approximate center of the river. Trapped in her kayak in the rushing water, she lay partially submerged across an exposed rock as others, including her husband and members of a responding rescue squad, made repeated attempts to reach her. An expert kayaker, Fourney, 47, flooring contractor, was alerted to the situation and responded to the scene. Using a borrowed dry suit, helmet, and life jacket, he boarded an inflatable kayak and paddled to a position below Cox. When he backed the kayak to the rock on which Cox lay, Cox grasped the craft and held to it as Fourney stood and leapt to the rock. Standing, Fourney grasped Cox's life jacket and tugged repeatedly, releasing her and her kayak. They spilled off the rock, Cox inverted in her kayak. Fourney uprighted her and accompanied her downstream to where a rescue boat took them to safety. Cox required hospital treatment for hypothermia and an aggravated shoulder injury, from which she recovered. 79962-9173



GACHINO GALANTE

Rydal, Pennsylvania

Gachino Galante helped to save Gregory A. Steirer from drowning, Beach Haven, New Jersey, May 28, 2006. While swimming in the Atlantic Ocean, Steirer, 26, called for help as he attempted to return to shore against a strong current in the very cold water. Hearing him, Galante, 23, college student, and a friend, who were on the beach in the vicinity, immediately entered the water and swam out to him, reaching him at a point about 170 feet from shore. Also unable to return against the current, they struggled to support Steirer, Galante suffering respiratory distress. Another man swam out to them from the beach, taking two short surfboards. Steirer and Galante each

lay atop one of the boards, which the other man started to tow in, making any progress with difficulty against the current. Recovering somewhat, Galante gave up his board to the other man, allowing the other man the use of both hands to paddle. They continued toward shore, again with difficulty. Galante's friend, meanwhile, swam to the side of a jetty that was in the vicinity, and a responding police officer aided her to safety. Another emergency responder took a longer surfboard out to Steirer, Galante, and the other man, after which a rescuer on a personal watercraft arrived and returned Steirer, then Galante, to shore. The other man and the first responder returned to shore atop the longer surfboard. Steirer required hospital treatment for hypothermia, and he recovered, as did Galante, who was cold and tired.

79399-9160



STEVEN J. GIES

Petaluma, California

Steven J. Gies helped to rescue Cathy M. Rappa from burning, Petaluma, California, August 16, 2007. Rappa, 49, was unconscious in her apartment on the second floor of a two-story building after fire broke out in the unit's bedroom and filled it with dense smoke. A neighbor, Gies, 43, electronics technician, was alerted to the fire and responded to the apartment, where at its outside door he learned from another neighbor that Rappa was inside. Having been told her location, Gies entered the apartment and crawled through dense smoke in the living room, which adjoined the bedroom, to where Rappa lay on the floor, in the bathroom doorway. He grasped her by the legs but found that she was stuck. Maneuvering her free, Gies dragged her toward the apartment entrance. With flames by then breaching windows near the door, the other neighbor entered the apartment and helped Gies drag her to the door, and arriving firefighters carried her down the stairs to safety. Rappa was hospitalized for treatment of severe smoke inhalation and burns and died two days later. 80636-9207



CRAIG M. GOUKER

Hanover, Pennsylvania

Craig M. Gouker died attempting to save Cesar Salazar from suffocation, Owings Mills, Maryland, August 16, 2006. At work on a paving job, Salazar, 22, entered the manhole of a belowground vault to retrieve a tool when he lost consciousness in the oxygen-deficient atmosphere and fell to the bottom of the 24-foot-deep vault. Nearby, Gouker, 47, his foreman, was alerted. After calling for help, Gouker climbed through the manhole and began to descend to Salazar. He too lost consciousness and fell to the bottom of the vault. Responding rescue personnel removed both men and then worked to resuscitate them. Both died of asphyxia. 79600-9189



CARLTON GREEN

Milton-Freewater, Oregon

Carlton Green saved Adam K. Catania from burning, Walla Walla, Washington, July 16, 2007. Adam, 1, lay unconscious in the hall on the second floor of his family's two-story apartment after fire broke out in a bedroom on that floor. Driving nearby, Green, 40, billing employee, stopped at the scene after seeing smoke issue from a second-floor window. He entered the apartment and learned from Adam's brother that Adam was on the second floor. Green attempted twice to climb the stairs to the second floor, but he was repulsed by dense smoke and intense heat both times. Using a wet towel that he obtained from the kitchen for use as a mask, Green crawled up the stairs and started through the hall. Finding Adam on the floor, he picked him up and carried him downstairs and outside to safety. Adam and Green were both taken to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation, and they recovered. 80854-9234



DEWAYNE W. GRIFFIN

Amarillo, Texas

DeWayne W. Griffin rescued Bobbie J. Miller from burning, Amarillo, Texas, June 26, 2007. At night, Miller, 70, was in her one-story house after fire broke out at the rear of the structure, entered a bedroom, and filled the house with dense smoke. On duty nearby, Griffin, 26, police officer, responded to the scene, where he learned that Miller was inside the house. Gaining access to the structure through its front door, Griffin entered the living room but was forced out by the dense smoke and intense heat. He re-entered and crawled about 25 feet across the living room to a hall leading to the bedrooms. He found Miller standing in a bedroom doorway, across the hall from where flames were engulfing the other bedroom. Standing, Griffin held her to himself and then dragged her to the front door and outside, where they both collapsed. He picked her up and took her to his patrol car. Miller was hospitalized for treatment of smoke inhalation and burns, and Griffin also received hospital treatment for smoke inhalation. He recovered. (See photo, p. 10.) 80518-9194



KENNETH D. GURNON

Newport News, Virginia

Kenneth D. Gurnon died attempting to save Corey A. Tewalt from drowning, Narragansett, Rhode Island, July 17, 2006. Corey, 11, was walking on large rocks along the shore of the Atlantic Ocean at the mouth of Narragansett Bay when she slipped, fell into the water, and was pulled away from shore. The water was deep there and rough, with waves breaking about the rocks. A member of her party, Gurnon, 48, supervisor, immediately descended to the edge of the water and entered. He swam about 40 feet to Corey and then grasped her and began to pull her in. Almost reaching shore, Gurnon shouted for help before he and Corey were separated and pulled back out, with Gurnon then seen floating face down. Arriving police and res-

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cue personnel returned Corey to shore and then Gurnon, who had been swept out about 300 feet. They were taken to the hospital, where Corey was treated for hypothermia and minor injuries. She recovered. Gurnon could not be revived, as he had drowned. 79596-9152



MERLIN HARN

Neenah, Wisconsin

Merlin Harn saved a boy from being struck by a train, Menasha, Wisconsin, September 1, 2007. An unattended 3-year-old boy was observed walking on a railroad track by Harn, 40, facilities technician, and his wife as they drove by. They stopped at a crossing near the scene and called authorities. As they waited for police to arrive, the crossing's lights, bell, and gates were activated, and the whistle of an approaching train sounded. Harn immediately exited his vehicle and, without looking back to the train, ran to the boy, having to cover the 90-foot distance on the ballast of the track bed. Meanwhile, when the 13,000-ton train, which was traveling at about 35 m.p.h., rounded a bend, its locomotive crew saw Harn running and then saw the boy. The engineer immediately engaged the train's emergency brakes. In a continuous motion, Harn grasped the boy under the arms and lunged away from the track with him seconds before the front of the train passed them. Although the train had decelerated, it continued for about a quarter-mile past the scene before stopping. 80735-9242



JOSEPH EDWARD HOWARD

Shawnee, Oklahoma

Joseph Edward Howard helped to save Bernice A. and LeRoy F. Krittenbrink from drowning, Kingfisher, Oklahoma, August 19, 2007. Bernice, 66, and her husband, LeRoy, 72, were driving on an interstate highway when floodwaters the result of a tropical storm washed their pickup truck into an expanse of flooded farmland. The vehicle was carried away and

remained afloat for at least an hour in the muddy water. The state highway patrol responded with an aircraft and two helicopters and lowered life jackets to the Krittenbrinks, who by then had escaped to the bed of the submerging pickup. One of the helicopters was co-piloted by Howard, 34, a trooper, who with the pilot and the local fire chief was readying for a rescue by basket and line when they learned that the truck had sunk. They immediately flew to the scene, deciding to pull the couple directly into the helicopter despite the risk of overloading it. Since the pilot's view of the Krittenbrinks was obscured, Howard guided him in maneuvering the craft close to them as the fire chief positioned himself on one of its landing skids. Directed by Howard, the pilot held the helicopter in place as the fire chief, with difficulty, grasped Mrs. Krittenbrink. Unable to pull her into the cabin, he helped her hold to the helicopter as it started for the highway, but, her strength sapped, Mrs. Krittenbrink fell back into the water. Again guided by Howard, the pilot repositioned the craft, dipping its skid into the water to snag her. The fire chief helped her to a seated position on the skid and Howard held to her as the helicopter flew back to the highway, having to clear a power line en route. The three men returned for Krittenbrink, who by then was floating inert. While the pilot positioned the helicopter close to him, again directed by Howard, the fire chief, back on the skid, secured a hold of Krittenbrink. He too fell back into the water as the helicopter started toward the highway. Again the pilot positioned the helicopter to allow the fire chief to grasp Krittenbrink. The fire chief and Howard held Krittenbrink in a seated position on the skid as the helicopter returned to the highway. The Krittenbrinks were exhausted after their ordeal, but they recovered. 80935-9202



JOSHUA E. HUFFMAN

Pandora, Ohio

Joshua E. Huffman saved Seth L. Boroff and helped to save Judith A. Garrison from drowning, Pandora, Ohio, August 21, 2007. Seth, 11, was the passenger of a car driven by Garrison, 61, that was washed from a flooded roadway into an adjacent low-lying field, which also was flooded. They escaped the car through a window, the extremely swift current in the flood-

water carrying the vehicle a few hundred feet into the field. Garrison held to the car, but Seth, separated from it, was washed farther downstream, or to a point nearly opposite the house belonging to Huffman, 32, construction project manager, who was working outside. Alerted to the accident by a witness, Huffman ran to the flooded field and, removing his shoes, waded a few feet into the water. He then swam to Seth, who was about 150 feet out. Huffman held the boy to his chest with one arm as he swam back to the edge of the water with the other. Having learned from Seth that Garrison had also been in the car, Huffman ran about 250 feet on an exposed stretch of land to a point opposite Garrison, who was struggling to stay afloat. By then, the car was submerged. Although very tired, he re-entered the floodwater and swam about 100 feet to Garrison. Huffman grasped her and, treading water, supported her as responding firefighters launched a boat and made their way out to them. They returned Garrison and Huffman to higher ground. Seth and Garrison were taken to the hospital, but they were not injured. Huffman was tired after the rescue and quickly recovered. 80627-9200



FRED HUNT, JR.

Berwick, Maine

Fred Hunt, Jr., died helping to save Maureen A. Jennings from drowning, Cocoa Beach, Florida, October 22, 2007. Jennings, 68, was swimming in the Atlantic Ocean when she was caught in a current while attempting to return to shore. Hunt, 51, senior buyer, and others on the beach were alerted to her situation. He and another man entered the water and waded and swam out to Jennings. They then pushed her a distance toward shore before succumbing to the current themselves. Jennings struggled through wadable water to reach shore safely, receiving aid en route. Responding members of a rescue team recovered the other man from the water, and then, joined by a life-guard, returned Hunt to the beach. Hunt could not be revived, as he had drowned. 80765-9236



JAVIER JIMENEZ

Trenton, New Jersey

Javier Jimenez helped to rescue Keisha L. Downing from assault, Trenton, New Jersey, August 13, 2007. Downing, 36, was crossing a downtown street when a man approached her from behind, grasped her, and stabbed her in the leg. Screaming, she struggled against him for control of the knife as they went to the pavement. Nearby, Jimenez, 34, sales manager, was alerted to the attack, as was another man. They immediately ran to the scene, where they pushed the assailant off Downing and punched him to get him to free her. Releasing Downing, the assailant then threatened the men with the knife, inflicting severe wounds to the other man. When the assailant broke off that attack and walked away, Jimenez followed him to direct police to his location. Police responded shortly and arrested him. Downing required hospital treatment for her stab wounds, as did the other man. 80671-9221



JONATHAN H. JOHNSON

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Jonathan H. Johnson rescued Michael A. Strauch from assault, Colorado Springs, Colorado, January 1, 2007. While walking along a commercial street late at night, Strauch, 25, was attacked by a man who was armed with a knife. Without provocation, the assailant stabbed him in the back and chest. Walking nearby, Johnson, 34, sales manager, witnessed the assault. He dialed 911, and as he responded toward Strauch, the assailant advanced to him, swinging his knife hand at him. Johnson kicked at the assailant and then struggled against him, the assailant throwing him into a wall of a building. Johnson hit his head hard. Recovering, he punched the assailant repeatedly, sending him to the pavement and causing him to lose the knife. Johnson then tended to Strauch's wounds. Police arrived shortly and

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arrested the assailant. Strauch was taken to the hospital, where he was admitted for treatment of his stab wounds, which were serious. Johnson required overnight hospitalization for treatment of a head injury, from which he recovered. 80011-9155



JOHN A. KLANG

Cazenovia, Wisconsin

John A. Klang died after saving an indeterminate number of persons from assault, Cazenovia, Wisconsin, September 29, 2006. A 15-year-old boy entered the school he attended, armed with a loaded shotgun and handgun. A school employee removed the shotgun from him, after which the boy produced the handgun and pointed it at two teachers, both of whom sought safety. Meanwhile, Klang, 49, the school's principal and district administrator, responded and confronted the boy in a hallway. Klang and the boy then struggled, during which time the boy fired the gun repeatedly, striking Klang. Although he was mortally wounded, Klang disarmed the assailant, casting the gun through the hall, and detained him. A teacher and two students left a nearby classroom and secured the assailant until police arrived shortly and arrested him. Klang died in the hospital several hours later of his gunshot wounds. 79725-9153



RAYMOND J. KNEPPER

Niles, Ohio

Raymond J. Knepper rescued Louis A. Michaels from burning, Niles, Ohio, May 20, 2007. Michaels, 43, was inside his one-story house after a natural gas explosion there set fire to the front half of the structure. At his home nearby, Knepper, 53, machine operator, learned of the fire. Responding to the scene, he and others heard Michaels yelling from inside the house and determined his approximate location. Knepper forced open the house's back door, entered, and, despite intense heat, crawled through dense smoke about 14

feet to the end of a hall. He followed the sound of Michaels's voice, finding him in a room off the hall. Although flames were then entering the room, Knepper crawled across it to where Michaels was lying on the floor, badly burned, and pulled him to his feet. With both men crouching, Knepper guided Michaels to the hall and then to the back door and outside. Michaels required hospitalization for treatment of his injuries. Knepper sustained minor burns, and he recovered. 80345-9206



JAMES CHRISTOPHER KOCH

Homestead, Florida

James Christopher Koch helped to save Norberto Martinez from being struck by a boat, Key Largo, Florida, September 29, 2007. Martinez, 67, was thrown from his 18-foot boat into the Atlantic Ocean when the boat struck a channel marker about a half-mile from shore. The boat continued in circles around him, striking him and inflicting severe injury. Koch, 39, fishing guide and boat captain, and another man were approaching the scene in a Koch's smaller, lightweight boat when they saw the out-of-control boat circling Martinez, who was floating face down and inert. After the unmanned boat made a pass, Koch maneuvered the smaller boat to Martinez. Lying on the exposed deck at the bow, the other man reached down and secured a hold on Martinez. Koch then backed the smaller boat from the path of the circling one to a point of safety. He helped the other man lift Martinez aboard and then took him to shore. Martinez required hospitalization for treatment of his injuries, including lacerations to his back, and he recovered. 80856-9213



TRAVIS WAYNE KOEHLER
Las Vegas, Nevada

Travis Wayne Koehler died attempting to save Richard M. Luzier from suffocation, Las Vegas, Nevada, February 2, 2007. Luzier, 48, was climbing from the belowground lift station of a sewer system after working on a pipe there. He fell to the bottom of the 10-foot-deep pit, where he lay unconscious in wastewater. A coworker, Koehler, 26, journeyman engineer, immediately entered the pit and descended to its floor. He lifted Luzier's head out of the water before he too lost consciousness in the pit's oxygen-deficient atmosphere, which contained toxic fumes. Another coworker entered the pit in a rescue attempt, but he also lost consciousness and collapsed. Responding rescue personnel removed the men from the pit. The coworker survived but required extensive hospitalization for acute respiratory distress. Luzier and Koehler died at the scene. 80638-9191



KERMIT R. KUBITZ
San Francisco, California

Kermit R. Kubitz rescued Loren B. Schaller from assault, San Francisco, California, May 19, 2007. Loren, 15, was at the counter in a bakery when a man armed with a knife approached her from behind and, without provocation, attacked her. He stabbed her repeatedly, taking her to the floor. Another customer, Kubitz, 60, attorney, was inside the bakery and witnessed the attack. He immediately ran to the assailant and grabbed him, but the assailant turned on Kubitz and attacked him. The men struggled over a course that took them to the floor in the bakery doorway. Stabbed twice, Kubitz removed the knife from his side and threw it to the sidewalk. The assailant then fled the scene but was apprehended shortly. Kubitz and Loren were hospitalized for treatment of their stab wounds, Loren's requiring surgery. Kubitz missed a month's work but fully recovered. 81111-9240



JOSHUA JAMES LAPP

Hesperia, California

Joshua James Lapp helped to save Gloria Collins from burning, Sacramento, California, July 14, 2007. Collins, 57, was in the bedroom of her apartment on the first floor of a two-story building after fire broke out in the adjoining living room at night and filled the unit with dense smoke. A neighbor, Joshua, 16, student, was alerted to the fire. He and his mother responded to a point outside a window of Collins's bedroom, where they heard her screaming for help. Joshua and his mother repeatedly leaned through the window for Collins, but they could not find her. Joshua then climbed through the window and made his way in the blinding smoke to where he found Collins at the other end of the room. He grasped her and retraced his steps to the window, followed by another neighbor who had attempted the rescue but was nearly overcome by smoke. He lifted Collins up to the window and handed her out to his mother, and then he climbed through the window himself. Joshua and his mother aided the other neighbor from the structure, that wing of which was engulfed by flame and destroyed. Collins, Joshua, and the other neighbor were taken to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation, and Joshua sustained lacerations to a forearm. He recovered. 80571-9225



NICHOLAS P. LEARY

Plainfield, Connecticut

Nicholas P. Leary rescued Brenda L. Malarkey from burning, Danielson, Connecticut, August 9, 2007. Malarkey, 39, was in the bedroom of her apartment on the second floor of a three-story house after fire broke out in that room at night and filled the apartment with dense smoke. On duty, Leary, 38, a state police trooper, responded to the scene and went to the second floor of the house, where he learned that Malarkey was inside the burning apartment. He made repeated attempts at penetrating the smoke, which precluded visibility, but retreated to the hall each time. Re-entering by crawling,

Leary proceeded to Malarkey's bedroom and found her lying on the floor next to the bed, which was aflame, as was the wall beside it. He grasped Malarkey under the arms and dragged her to the apartment door and then into the hall. Flames by then had breached the apartment and were issuing into the hall. Another trooper who had responded helped Leary take Malarkey downstairs and outside to safety. Malarkey was hospitalized for treatment of severe burns and died four days later. 80612-9199



THEODORE LIDGETT

Redding, California

Theodore Lidgett rescued Judith R. L. Schmidt from assault, Redding, California, February 16, 2007. At night, Schmidt, 19, had just entered her vehicle in the parking lot of a store when a masked man, who was armed with a knife, approached and forced his way inside. Pushing her to the passenger side of the seat, he held the knife to her throat and demanded her keys. Schmidt opened the passenger door and dropped the keys to the pavement, and then she screamed for help. Her coworker, Lidgett, 59, retail associate, was at his vehicle, which was parked next to Schmidt's. Seeing the assault occur, Lidgett looked briefly for something to use as a weapon and then approached the passenger door of Schmidt's vehicle unarmed. He reached inside the car and pulled on Schmidt's shoulder with one hand while pushing the assailant's knife hand away with the other. Although the assailant was also pulling on Schmidt, Lidgett freed her from the vehicle. She left the immediate scene. When the assailant followed her out of the car, Lidgett slammed the door against him repeatedly. The assailant fled but was later apprehended by police. Schmidt suffered bruises and cuts, including a deep laceration to a leg that required hospital treatment. 80167-9158



LYKESIA LILLY

Polkton, North Carolina

Lykesia Lilly helped to save Adrian A. Clark from drowning, Burnsville, North Carolina, May 6, 2007. Adrian, 6, called for help as he clung to the side of an abandoned well, at a point about 15 feet into the well. Water filled the 50-foot shaft to that point. His aunt, Lilly, 18, high school student, and other family members gathered at the well and lowered one end of an electrical cord to Adrian, but he did not release his hold on the wall of the well. Lilly then entered the well feet first through the 14-inch opening in its concrete cover. Holding to the sides of the well by her feet and hands, she lowered herself toward Adrian and then dropped into the water. Surfacing, she tied the cord around Adrian's waist. Adrian was pulled from the well by those at the surface. Lilly then climbed toward the top of the well and was aided from it. She and Adrian were taken to the hospital, where Lilly was treated for lacerations to a wrist and an elbow. Adrian was not injured. 80477-9174



ALEXANDER J. MACHADO

Milton, Delaware

Alexander J. Machado rescued Craig S. Burgholzer from burning, Milton, Delaware, March 3, 2007. Burgholzer, 23, remained in the cab of his pickup truck after a nighttime accident in which the vehicle left the roadway, struck a tree, and came to rest upside down in a field. Flames broke out at the vehicle, issuing from its underside and entering the cab. Machado, 23, maintenance employee, heard the accident from his nearby home. He responded to the scene, where he saw Burgholzer trapped inside the vehicle, trying to fight the flames back. After attempting unsuccessfully to open the vehicle's doors, Machado kicked out the window of the driver's door. Despite the nearby flames, Machado reached inside the cab, grasped Burgholzer, and started to pull him head first through the window. He then grabbed Burgholzer under

the arms, pulled him the rest of the way out, and dragged him to safety. The truck was destroyed in the accident and fire. Burgholzer was hospitalized for treatment of extensive burns and a broken ankle. Machado suffered minor scratches to his hands, and he recovered. 80217-9179



EDWIN MARRON
Reseda, California

Edwin Marron helped to save a woman from falling, Encino, California, January 5, 2006. In a suicide attempt, a 52-year-old woman threatened to jump from a balcony on the sixth floor of a building to the paved parking lot below. Emergency responders included firefighters and Marron, 25, and his partner, both police officers. When Marron and his partner entered the balcony, they saw the woman lying on her back beneath the lower of two horizontal bars that served as a railing across the balcony's open side. The lower bar was about two feet above the balcony floor, and the woman was beginning to roll in that space to drop from the edge of the balcony. The other officer lay atop the woman's lower body, but she struggled against him, taking her and the officer's upper bodies over the edge. Although the combined weight of the woman and the officer was near 500 pounds, Marron grasped the officer by a leg and, going to the floor, attempted to pull him back. A firefighter then entered the balcony, grasped the other officer by the belt, and pulled him and the woman away from the edge. 79667-9157



NEIL MAYCOCK
Centerport, New York

Neil Maycock saved Michael C. Johnston from drowning, Centerport, New York, February 25, 2007. While walking on the ice atop Centerport Harbor, Johnston, 23, broke through at a point about 50 feet from the nearer shore. He was unable to pull himself from the water, the temperature of which was in the 30s, as was that of the air. Maycock, 40, company president, was walk-

ing on the shore, but several hundred feet away, when he was alerted to the situation. He ran to a point nearer Johnston, and then, removing his coat, entered the harbor in an area of open water that was clogged with sheets of ice. Pushing the ice from his path, Maycock waded and swam, despite wearing hiking boots, to Johnston, followed by his two dogs. Losing consciousness, Johnston submerged about then. He and Maycock grasped each other, and Johnston resurfaced. He grasped one of the dogs while Maycock held him by an arm and swam him toward shore, Maycock again having to push the sheets of ice away. Once they were able to stand, the men waded from the harbor. Johnston was taken to the hospital, where he was treated for severe hypothermia and cuts and bruises. Maycock was treated at the scene for cuts to his hands, and he recovered. 80143-9154



SCOTT LELAND MCGRAIN

Horseheads, New York

Scott Leland McGrain rescued Andrew M. Peterson from burning, Horseheads, New York, December 10, 2005. Andrew, 12, was asleep in his family's one-story house when a massive explosion of leaking natural gas demolished the structure, throwing its occupants from it. Unconscious and badly injured, Andrew lay under debris along the side of the structure, close to a jet of burning gas. McGrain, 32, police officer, responded to the scene. Seeing Andrew's hand exposed in the debris, he approached him, despite intense heat and the close proximity of flames issuing from the gas line. McGrain kicked aside rubble from atop Andrew, picked him up, and took him away from the burning debris. Andrew was hospitalized for treatment of severe injuries and burns, requiring surgery. 78921-9215

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SHAWN M. MCLEAN

Newark Valley, New York

Shawn M. McLean saved Deanna R. Hanyon from burning, Maine, New York, December 20, 2006. Restrained by her safety belt, Deanna, 17, was suspended upside down in the driver's seat of her car, following an accident in which the vehicle left the roadway and overturned in a ditch. Fire erupted on the undercarriage of the car. Motorists stopping at the scene included McLean, 37, automobile mechanic. Unable to access the driver's side of the car because of its positioning in the ditch, he broke out a window on the passenger side and crawled into the vehicle. He maneuvered to a point below Deanna and with difficulty unfastened her safety belt. Pulling Deanna with him, McLean moved back to the window and left the car with her. Fire soon entered the interior of the vehicle, and it was shortly engulfed by flames, which destroyed it. Deanna was taken to the hospital but was not detained, and McLean suffered a minor cut on his hand that did not need treatment.

80019-9164



MARK MIRELES

Burbank, California

Mark Mireles helped to save a woman from falling, Encino, California, January 5, 2006. In a suicide attempt, a 52-year-old woman threatened to jump from a balcony on the sixth floor of a building to the paved parking lot below. Emergency responders included firefighters and Mireles, 38, and his partner, both police officers. When Mireles and his partner entered the balcony, they saw the woman lying on her back beneath the lower of two horizontal bars that served as a railing across the balcony's open side. The lower bar was about two feet above the balcony floor, and the woman was beginning to roll in that space to drop from the edge of the balcony. Although she greatly outweighed him, Mireles lunged toward the woman and lay atop her lower body, wrapping his arms around her legs. The woman struggled

against him, taking her and Mireles's upper bodies over the edge. Going to the floor, Mireles's partner grasped him by a leg and attempted to pull him back. A firefighter then entered the balcony, grasped Mireles by the belt, and pulled him and the woman away from the edge. 79668-9156



BENJAMIN MONTGOMERY

Koloa, Hawaii

Benjamin Montgomery rescued Ping Zhou from assault, Lihue, Hawaii, January 10, 2007. Zhou, 33, was seated at a table in the courtyard of a mall when a woman armed with a large knife approached and stabbed her in the back. Screaming, Zhou rose and ran into a nearby restaurant, the assailant following her. Montgomery, 32, a mall business operator, was also seated in the courtyard, and he witnessed the assault. He followed the women into the restaurant, where the assailant had resumed stabbing Zhou at a point about 30 feet from the door. Montgomery approached the assailant from behind and grasped her, securing her knife hand. He disarmed her and then took her outside, where police who arrived shortly arrested her. Zhou was hospitalized for treatment of multiple stab wounds, and she recovered. 80658-9216



ROSS P. MOORE

Dwight, Ontario

Ross P. Moore saved a man from drowning, Dwight, Ontario, March 15, 2007. While attempting to cross the ice on Oxtongue River with his snowmobile, a 23-year-old man broke through thin ice at a point about midway across. The vehicle sank in the seven-foot-deep water, and the man shouted for help. At his nearby home on the bank of the river, Moore, 40, heard the man scream. He immediately responded to the scene, where he saw the man, partially submerged, clinging to the edge of the ice. Moore stepped onto the ice and walked toward the man. Near him, he removed his sweat-

shirt and, crouching, extended one of its sleeves to him. When the man grasped the sleeve, Moore pulled him atop the ice, which was cracking beneath them. Moore helped the man to his feet, after which they walked back to the safety of the bank. 80277-9169



ANDRES MORALES

New York, New York

Andres Morales rescued Cheryl C. Smith from assault, New York, New York, April 24, 2007. While walking home at night, Smith, 38, was approached on the sidewalk by a man armed with a knife. Threatening her with the weapon, he demanded her purse and other possessions. Smith's friend, Morales, 36, mechanic, had just parked nearby and was approaching the scene on foot. Seeing him, Smith screamed, alerting Morales to the assault. Morales ran to Smith. The assailant turned on him, and the men struggled, freeing Smith. The assailant stabbed Morales repeatedly before fleeing. Smith called for help, and police who arrived quickly apprehended the assailant nearby. Morales was taken to the hospital, where he was detained for treatment of his wounds, which required suturing. He recovered. 80324-9183



DENNIS H. MORTON

Prineville, Oregon

Dennis H. Morton helped to rescue Oma D. Pratt from burning, Prineville, Oregon, August 12, 2007. Pratt, 54, was in her mobile home after fire broke out in its rear bedroom and filled the structure with dense smoke. Driving nearby, Morton, 38, distribution center employee, saw smoke and responded to the scene. Learning that Pratt was inside the mobile home, he entered it through the front door, despite flames rapidly advancing from the rear of the structure and the dense smoke, which restricted visibility. Morton crawled about 10 feet into the living room to find Pratt lying on the floor there. With difficulty, he secured a hold of her and moved her toward the door, where

responding sheriff's personnel assisted in taking Pratt to safety. Flames shortly engulfed the mobile home, destroying it. Pratt was hospitalized for severe burns and died 10 days later. Morton inhaled smoke but recovered.

80591-9175



KEAVY JOSEPH NEFF

Spokane, Washington

Keavy Joseph Neff helped to save a man from drowning, Spokane, Washington, April 25, 2007. A 23-year-old man entered the Spokane River and was swept several hundred feet downstream by the very swift current. Shouting for help, he was heard by Neff, 44, carpenter, who lived near the river. Neff pursued the man on foot and then on his bicycle, riding about 3,000 feet along the river to an accessible point on its bank ahead of the man's course. There, Neff removed his outer attire and, despite a water temperature in the 40s, dived into the river. He swam out to intercept the man at a point about 30 feet from the bank and then, establishing a hold on him, began to swim back in. Firefighters who had responded threw a line to them and pulled them to the bank. The man required hospitalization, and Neff suffered a pulled muscle. 80262-9210



MARC PATTERSON

Kamloops, British Columbia

Marc Patterson rescued Colton T. G. Reeb from an attacking cougar, Clinton, British Columbia, August 1, 2007. Colton, 12, was camping with family friends when a 70-pound cougar attacked him, felling him and taking his head into its mouth. A member of his party, Patterson, 45, disabled construction worker, was alerted to the attack and responded immediately from nearby. Patterson kicked the cougar in the head repeatedly, but it would not release Colton. He then went to his knees, grasped the cougar by its neck, and applied pressure, causing it to release him. Colton fled to safety.

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Patterson and the cougar struggled on the ground briefly, the cougar then freeing itself. Patterson regained his footing as the cougar, just a few feet away, growled at him. He made gruff noises and waved his arms while backing away from the animal, and then he drove Colton to a police station. Colton was hospitalized for two weeks for treatment of puncture wounds and lacerations to his head that required nearly 300 sutures. 80549-9195



PATRICK S. PAYNE

Grant, Alabama

Patrick S. Payne attempted to help save Rick C. Abille from drowning, Hanalei, Hawaii, December 17, 2006. Rick, 14, was swimming in the Pacific Ocean off a beach at the mouth of the Lumahai River. A wave knocked him off his boogie board, and strong ocean and river currents carried him farther from shore. He shouted for help. Payne, 41, network engineer, was one of three coworkers who were at the beach. On hearing Rick shout for help, Payne entered the water and began to swim to him, following one of his coworkers, who swam out with a body board. The coworker took Rick on his back, but then they as well as Payne were swept toward a rocky promontory that, extending a few hundred feet from shore, formed the far bank of the river. Battered by the waves, Payne struggled to stay afloat. The second coworker, responding to the scene with two body boards, entered the surf, made his way to Payne, and gave him one of the boards. Losing the board, Payne was swept farther out, around the end of the promontory, to where he was recovered by rescue personnel. He required hospital treatment for having nearly drowned, and he recovered. Rick and the first coworker were also recovered by rescue personnel, and they too required hospital treatment. The second coworker drowned. 80208-9187



JEFFREY S. PETERS, JR.

Meadville, Pennsylvania

Jeffrey S. Peters, Jr., rescued Debra A. Knuth from burning, Meadville, Pennsylvania, September 11, 2007. Knuth, 50, was pinned by fallen debris in her bedroom after a propane explosion in her mobile home that set the structure aflame. On hearing the explosion from his nearby home, a neighbor, Peters, 18, immediately responded to the scene. He entered the collapsing structure through its back door and in intense heat made his way to Knuth's bedroom. Finding Knuth pinned in her bed, he lifted debris off her and pulled her from the bed. He then picked her up and carried her to the door, where he handed her to another neighbor who had responded. Peters exited the mobile home shortly before flames grew to engulf it. The mobile home was destroyed. Knuth required extensive hospitalization for treatment of severe burns. 80560-9231



RANDY POINDEXTER

Kingfisher, Oklahoma

Randy Poindexter helped to save Bernice A. and LeRoy F. Krittenbrink from drowning, Kingfisher, Oklahoma, August 19, 2007. Bernice, 66, and her husband, LeRoy, 72, were driving on an interstate highway when floodwaters the result of a tropical storm washed their pickup truck into an expanse of flooded farmland. The vehicle was carried away and remained afloat for at least an hour in the muddy water. The state highway patrol responded with an aircraft and two helicopters and lowered life jackets to the Krittenbrinks, who by then had escaped to the bed of the submerging pickup. Poindexter, 33, the local fire chief, was readying for a rescue by basket and line with the pilots of one of the helicopters when they learned that the truck had sunk. They immediately flew to the scene, deciding to pull the couple directly into the helicopter despite the risk of overloading it. Poindexter positioned himself on one of the helicopter's landing skids as the pilots took the craft close to the water. As the pilots held the helicopter in place, Poindexter, with diffi-

culty, grasped Mrs. Krittenbrink. Unable to pull her into the cabin, he helped her hold to the helicopter as it started for the highway, but, her strength sapped, Mrs. Krittenbrink fell back into the water. The pilots repositioned the craft, dipping its skid into the water to snag her. Poindexter helped her to a seated position on the skid and one of the pilots held to her as the helicopter flew back to the highway, having to clear a power line en route. The three men returned for Krittenbrink, who by then was floating inert. Poindexter, back on the skid, secured a hold of Krittenbrink. He too fell back into the water as the helicopter started toward the highway. Again the pilots positioned the helicopter to allow Poindexter to grasp Krittenbrink. He and one of the pilots held Krittenbrink in a seated position on the skid as the helicopter returned to the highway. The Krittenbrinks were exhausted after their ordeal, but they recovered. 80629-9203



JEAN PATRICK POLICAPE

Skokie, Illinois

Jean Patrick Policape rescued Joy V. Kora from burning, Skokie, Illinois, December 26, 2006. Kora, 54, lay unconscious on the floor of the living room in his one-story house after fire broke out in a bedroom and filled the structure with dense smoke. A neighbor, Policape, 44, systems engineer, was alerted to the fire and immediately responded to the scene. He entered the house through the front door and, below the smoke, which precluded visibility except for just above the floor, saw Kora about 12 feet into the room. Despite nearby flames that enveloped the bedroom and issued outside the structure to a point above it, Policape crawled to Kora. He grasped him by a leg and his torso and dragged him to the front door. There, another man helped take Kora to safety. Kora required extensive hospitalization for smoke inhalation and severe burns. 80319-9162



JARMAINE E. RAVENELL

Ewing, New Jersey

Jarmaine E. Ravenell helped to rescue Keisha L. Downing from assault, Trenton, New Jersey, August 13, 2007. Downing, 36, was crossing a downtown street when a man approached her from behind, grasped her, and stabbed her in the leg. Screaming, she struggled against him for control of the knife as they went to the pavement. Nearby, Ravenell, 25, cashier, was alerted to the attack, as was another man. They immediately ran to the scene, where they pushed the assailant off Downing and punched him to get him to free her. Releasing Downing, the assailant then threatened the men with the knife, inflicting severe wounds to Ravenell about the forearms. Ravenell fell to the street, where the assailant continued to attack him. Ravenell kicked the assailant until the assailant broke off the attack and walked away. Police responded shortly and arrested him. Downing required hospital treatment for her stab wounds, as did Ravenell, who was detained for surgery to both arms. 80598-9220



KENNETH W. RINGEISEN

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Kenneth W. Ringeisen died attempting to save Donald M. Adams from drowning, Virginia Beach, Virginia, May 20, 2007. Adams, 53, and his friend Ringeisen, 65, masonry contractor, were fishing from Adams's boat in the Western Branch of the Lynnhaven River when Adams lost his pole to the water. Extending himself over the edge of the boat, he reached for it but entered the river and submerged. Surfacing, he found himself nearly immobilized by the cold water. Although fully attired, Ringeisen dived from the bow of the boat as Adams struggled to remain afloat. The men were together briefly at the surface of the water before separating, and their boat drifted away. Adams maneuvered to a small island nearby and waded from the river.

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Ringeisen drifted with the current and submerged after another boater attempted to rescue him. He was removed from the river shortly but could not be revived. Adams was taken to the hospital for treatment of hypothermia, and he recovered. 80998-9198



NORMAN JEFFERY RINGSETH

Reno, Nevada

Norman Jeffery Ringseth died attempting to rescue Edwin A. and Iris M. Pike from burning, Reno, Nevada, August 11, 2007. At night, Pike, 71, and his wife, 72, were inside their mobile home after fire broke out in a hallway connecting the unit's living room and bedrooms. At his home across the street, Ringseth, 44, disabled sales clerk, saw the flames, and he responded to the scene although he was recovering from a broken leg that had required a cast. He was last seen running to the side of the structure as flames grew and spread quickly, abetted by high wind. Firefighters arrived shortly and found Ringseth's body in the mobile home's master bedroom, along with those of Pike and his wife. All three had died of asphyxiation. The mobile home and the one adjoining it were destroyed in the fire. 80647-9163



WALTER ROSENTHAL

Toms Place, California

Walter Rosenthal died helping attempt to save James J. Juarez and John S. McAndrews from suffocation, Mammoth Lakes, California, April 6, 2006. Juarez, 34, and McAndrews, 37, were among a crew of ski patrollers recovering a fence buried by snow at a resort on Mammoth Mountain. About 20 feet of snow covered the ground except at a fumarole, or natural vent, through which gases, particularly carbon dioxide, were released. A cap of snow covered a cave that had formed in the snow above the fumarole, and from the surface the existence of the cave was not evident. Without warning, Juarez and McAndrews broke through the snow covering and fell to the floor of the cave, and within moments they lost consciousness in its toxic atmosphere.

Equipped with an oxygen mask, one of their coworkers at the site, Rosenthal, 58, entered the hole resulting from the men's fall and slid to the bottom of the cave. He walked to Juarez and McAndrews but then lost consciousness and collapsed. Another coworker entered the cave in a rescue attempt but was also overcome. Over the course of several minutes, other personnel responding to the scene dug a trench through the snow toward the bottom of the cave and recovered the four victims. The last man to have lost consciousness was revived, but attempts to revive Juarez, McAndrews, and Rosenthal were not successful. 79258-9232



JON R. SALLEE

Nicholasville, Kentucky

Jon R. Sallee helped to save James M. Polehinke from burning, Lexington, Kentucky, August 27, 2006. Polehinke, 44, was the co-pilot of a commercial regional jet that crashed during takeoff and caught fire. Severely injured, he remained restrained by a harness to his seat in the cockpit. Sallee, 26, airport public safety officer, responded to the scene, where he found that flames had engulfed the wreckage except for the area of the cockpit. Approaching the cockpit, Sallee saw that a responding police officer was inside, attempting to free Polehinke. Sallee also entered the cockpit, through a gap in the wreckage at the nose of the jet. Working together, he and the officer freed Polehinke, but with difficulty, flames just feet away. They then pulled him from the cockpit and dragged him toward a responder's vehicle that had arrived. Polehinke required extensive hospitalization. The 49 other passengers and crewmembers of the jet died in the accident. 79729-9168



MICHAEL H. SCHREIBER

Linwood, New Jersey

Michael H. Schreiber helped to save Gregory A. Steirer from drowning, Beach Haven, New Jersey, May 28, 2006. While swimming in the Atlantic Ocean, Steirer, 26, called for help as he attempted to return to shore against a strong current in the very cold water. A man and woman who were on the beach in the vicinity entered the water and swam out to him, reaching him at a point about 170 feet from shore. Also unable to return against the current, they struggled to support Steirer, the man suffering respiratory distress. Schreiber, 50, attorney, swam out to them from the beach, taking two short surfboards. Steirer and the other man each lay atop one of the boards, which Schreiber started to tow in, making any progress with difficulty against the current. Recovering somewhat, the other man gave up his board to Schreiber, who tied it to his ankle, thereby allowing him the use of both hands to paddle. They continued toward shore, again with difficulty. The woman, meanwhile, swam to the side of a jetty that was in the vicinity, and a responding police officer aided her to safety. Another emergency responder took a longer surfboard out to Steirer, Schreiber, and the other man, after which a rescuer on a personal watercraft arrived and returned Steirer, then the other man, to shore. Schreiber and the first responder returned to shore atop the longer surfboard. Steirer required hospital treatment for hypothermia, and he recovered. 79400-9161



JEFFREY W. SELLERS

Hazel Green, Alabama

Jeffrey W. Sellers helped to save Rick C. Abille from drowning, Hanalei, Hawaii, December 17, 2006. Rick, 14, was swimming in the Pacific Ocean off a beach at the mouth of the Lumahai River. A wave knocked him off his boogie board, and strong ocean and river currents carried him farther from shore. He shouted for help. Sellers, 34, network administrator, was one of three coworkers who were at the beach. He had been body boarding nearby

but was leaving the water because of the strength of the current. On hearing Rick shout for help, Sellers turned and swam to him and then took him on his back. They were then swept toward a rocky promontory that, extending a few hundred feet from shore, formed the far bank of the river. After they were knocked repeatedly from the board by breaking waves there, Sellers fought to swim out toward deeper water, away from the breakers. Meanwhile, one of the coworkers also swam out to help Rick, but he too was caught by the current and swept toward the promontory. The second coworker, responding to the scene with two body boards, entered the surf and made his way to Sellers and Rick. He attempted to give one of the boards to Sellers, but a wave broke over them and separated them. Sellers maintained his hold of Rick for several minutes, until responding rescue personnel returned them to shore. They required hospital treatment, Sellers for having nearly drowned, and they recovered. The first coworker was also recovered by rescue personnel and treated at the hospital. The second coworker drowned. 80209-9186



MARK ANDREW SELLERS

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Mark Andrew Sellers saved Jordan R. Sweigart from burning, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, November 17, 2007. Jordan, 17, was trapped in the driver's seat of his car, which in a nighttime accident had left the roadway and struck a utility pole. The pole broke in the accident, and its top, bearing electric lines and transformers, fell onto the car, jamming shut its driver's door. The lines arced. Sellers, 45, sales representative, approached the scene in his vehicle and trained its headlights on the wrecked car. He approached the driver's side of the car and told Jordan to await arrival of emergency personnel. Sellers then saw that a fire had started in the car's engine compartment and concluded that there was not enough time for help to arrive. To test if the car were energized, he struck a glancing blow against its driver's door. He then grasped the handle and pulled hard, but the handle broke off and his momentum threw him back. Sellers returned to the car and kicked at the window of the driver's door, but the glass did not break. Despite the growing

flames, he then opened the rear door, entered the car, and with Jordan reclined the back of the driver's seat. He grasped Jordan under his arms, pulled him from the vehicle, and dragged him to safety. Flames soon enveloped the car. Jordan required hospitalization for treatment of his injuries, and he recovered. 80837-9238



BRIAN K. SMITH

Arcata, California

Brian K. Smith died helping to save Asa G. Segura Smith from drowning, Salyer, California, July 22, 2006. Asa, 7, his father, and others were swimming in a shallow stretch of the South Fork of the Trinity River when they entered an area where water was at least 12 feet deep and its current, strong. Asa's father supported him and called for help. Smith, 40, college student, who was Asa's uncle, was on the bank in the vicinity. He ran into the river and began to swim toward Asa and his father, who were about 150 feet from the bank. Asa's father submerged, and Asa trod water until Smith reached him. Smith grasped Asa and struggled to return to the bank before he too submerged. Another member of the party also entered the river, taking with her a partially inflated air mattress. She swam to Asa, gave him one end of the mattress, and then towed him to the bank. Rescue personnel recovered Asa's father and Smith from the river but could not revive them, as they had drowned. 79748-9178



DAVID A. SNOW

Henderson, Nevada

David A. Snow helped attempt to save Richard M. Luzier from suffocation, Las Vegas, Nevada, February 2, 2007. Luzier, 48, was climbing from the belowground lift station of a sewer system after working on a pipe there. He fell to the bottom of the 10-foot-deep pit, where he lay unconscious in wastewater. A coworker entered the pit and lifted Luzier's head out of the water, but he too lost consciousness in the pit's oxygen-deficient atmosphere, which

contained toxic fumes. Snow, 29, engineer, who was another coworker, entered the pit in a rescue attempt, but he also lost consciousness and collapsed. Responding rescue personnel removed the men from the pit. Snow survived but required extensive hospitalization for acute respiratory distress. Luzier and the first coworker died at the scene. 80107-9192



GIANKARLO SQUICIMARI

Miami, Florida

Giankarlo Squicimari died attempting to help save Erika M. Hernandez from drowning, Palm Beach, Florida, May 27, 2007. As Erika, 12, struggled in the Atlantic Ocean, her mother, on the beach, shouted for help, attracting the attention of Squicimari, 31, sales representative. He and a friend entered the water and started to swim out to Erika, who was about 180 feet from shore. The friend reached Erika and, although very tired, began to return her to shore, but Squicimari struggled in the current and was overcome. Another man entered the water and took Erika to shore, and then he swam back out and returned the friend to safety as others recovered Squicimari. Squicimari could not be revived, as he had drowned. Erika and Squicimari's friend were taken to the hospital for treatment. 80363-9176



BRIAN SCOTT STURGILL

Harrah, Oklahoma

Brian Scott Sturgill helped to save Bernice A. and LeRoy F. Krittenbrink from drowning, Kingfisher, Oklahoma, August 19, 2007. Bernice, 66, and her husband, LeRoy, 72, were driving on an interstate highway when floodwaters the result of a tropical storm washed their pickup truck into an expanse of flooded farmland. The vehicle was carried away and remained afloat for at least an hour in the muddy water. The state highway patrol responded with an aircraft and two helicopters and lowered life jackets to the Krittenbrinks, who by then had escaped to the bed of the submerging pickup. One of the helicopters was piloted by Sturgill, 41, a trooper, who with his co-pilot and the

local fire chief was readying for a rescue by basket and line when they learned that the truck had sunk. They immediately flew to the scene, deciding to pull the couple directly into the helicopter despite the risk of overloading it. Sturgill took the helicopter close to the water as the fire chief positioned himself on one of its landing skids. Since his view of the Krittenbrinks was obscured, Sturgill was directed by the co-pilot in maneuvering the craft close to them. He held it in place as the fire chief, with difficulty, grasped Mrs. Krittenbrink. Unable to pull her into the cabin, he helped her hold to the helicopter as Sturgill started for the highway, but, her strength sapped, Mrs. Krittenbrink fell back into the water. Sturgill repositioned the craft, dipping its skid into the water to snag her. The fire chief helped her to a seated position on the skid and the co-pilot held to her as Sturgill flew back to the highway, having to clear a power line en route. The three men returned for Krittenbrink, who by then was floating inert. While Sturgill positioned the helicopter close to him, again directed by the co-pilot, the fire chief, back on the skid, secured a hold of Krittenbrink. He too fell back into the water as the helicopter started toward the highway. Again Sturgill positioned the helicopter to allow the fire chief to grasp Krittenbrink. The fire chief and the co-pilot held Krittenbrink in a seated position on the skid as Sturgill returned the helicopter to the highway. The Krittenbrinks were exhausted after their ordeal, but they recovered. 80670-9201



HOIP D. SWABY

Brockton, Massachusetts

Hoip D. Swaby helped to save John P. Kanash and Kenneth H. Schofield from drowning, Fall River, Massachusetts, October 19, 2007. Tunnel workers Kanash, 49; Schofield, 45; and Swaby, 41, were working at the bottom of a large, 105-foot-deep, vertical shaft when a nearby sewer line that was buried closer to the surface collapsed. It had been raining heavily, and effluent from the collapsed line breached the wall of the shaft, cascaded into it, and rapidly began to fill it. Electric lights inside the shaft went out, leaving the men in almost total darkness as they shouted for help. From ground level, a crane operator lowered a transport cage into the shaft. Swaby maneuvered to it

and boarded, but the cage was raised before Kanash and Schofield could get to it. At the surface, Swaby asked for a flashlight, telling coworkers he was returning to the bottom of the shaft for the two other men. Despite massive amounts of water continuing to cascade into the shaft, Swaby rode the cage toward the bottom, where it sank about three feet in the accumulating water before rising somewhat. Seeing light from Swaby's flashlight, Kanash and Schofield made their way to the cage and boarded it. The cage was immediately lifted to the surface, its occupants uninjured. About 85,000 gallons of water entered the shaft, filling it to the level of the collapsed line. 80797-9241



RONALD THOMAS
Wellsville, New York

Ronald Thomas died attempting to save Daniel G. Allen from drowning, Wellsville, New York, April 29, 2007. Daniel, 16, and his father were fishing from atop a man-made waterfall that spanned the Genesee River when the father toppled into the boil of water at the base of the falls. Attempting to help him, Daniel also fell into the boil. They could not extract themselves. Thomas, 56, sub-assembler and welder, was fishing nearby, also above the falls. He moved along the falls to a point above Daniel and his father and extended his fishing pole toward Daniel. Daniel reached for the pole, but then Thomas fell from the falls into the boil. Both Daniel and his father became free of the boil and were aided by others to the bank. Rescue personnel arrived at the scene and were preparing to enter the water to recover Thomas when he became free of the boil and floated downstream. Rescuers removed him from the water but could not revive him, as he had drowned. Daniel and his father were taken to the hospital for observation, but they were not injured. 80272-9204



RICHARD ANTHONY TOWER
Yreka, California

Richard Anthony Tower saved Dorothy M. Knudsen from drowning, Horse Creek, California, September 19, 2007. Knudsen, 82, was the driver of a car that, in an accident, left the roadway, entered the Klamath River, and began to submerge nose first at a point about 50 feet from the bank. Current in the river was swift, and its water cold. Knudsen was able to lower the window of the driver's door partially and extend the upper portion of her body from the car. Tower, 40, truck driver, witnessed the accident while approaching in his vehicle. He stopped at the scene and, hearing Knudsen calling for help, entered the water for her. Despite being fully attired, including his boots, Tower swam to the car, grasped Knudsen, and attempted both to pull her from the vehicle and open its driver's door. As the car submerged completely, taking Knudsen with it, Tower freed her and pulled her back to the water surface. He swam toward the bank with her, en route grasping one end of a rope that was thrown to him by a man on the bank. That man pulled them the rest of the way in. Knudsen was hospitalized overnight for treatment of her injuries and hypothermia. Tower sustained sore muscles and lacerations to his legs. He missed a day's work but fully recovered. 80715-9235



DWAYNE D. TROTTI
Killen, Alabama

Dwayne D. Trotti died attempting to help save Rick C. Abille and others from drowning, Hanalei, Hawaii, December 17, 2006. Rick, 14, was swimming in the Pacific Ocean off a beach at the mouth of the Lumahai River. A wave knocked him off his boogie board, and strong ocean and river currents carried him farther from shore. He shouted for help. Trotti, 43, system engineer, was one of three coworkers who were at the beach. On hearing Rick shout for help, the two other coworkers swam out for him but were swept toward a rocky promontory that, extending a few hundred feet from shore,

formed the far bank of the river. They struggled to stay afloat, Rick on the back of one of the coworkers. Meanwhile, Trotti, who had earlier left the scene to obtain body boards from the men's vehicle, returned and entered the surf with the boards. He made his way to the coworker who was with Rick and attempted to give him one of the boards, but a wave broke over them and separated them. Trotti then swam to the other coworker and give him a board. That coworker was swept farther out, around the end of the promontory, to where he was recovered by rescue personnel. The first coworker and Rick were also recovered by rescue personnel. Both men and Rick required hospital treatment, and they recovered. Found floating off shore, Trotti was taken to the beach, but he could not be revived. He had drowned. 80021-9188



CLAUDE ANCEL WALKER IV

Rocklin, California

Claude Ancel Walker IV saved John A. Crabtree from burning, Roseville, California, December 3, 2007. Crabtree, 51, was driving a tank truck on an interstate highway when the vehicle left the highway, overturned, and came to rest extending down an embankment. Crabtree remained in the driver's seat as flames broke out in the truck's engine compartment and issued from its exposed underside. Traveling on the same highway, Walker, 33, carpenter, arrived at the scene to find that the truck was occupied. He approached its front end and, after clearing the remaining glass from its windshield, extended his upper body through the windshield opening and into the cab. Grasping Crabtree about the arms, Walker pulled on him to free him from behind the steering wheel. He then stepped from the cab, pulling Crabtree through the windshield opening, and helped to drag him to safety. Flames soon engulfed the truck. Crabtree required hospital treatment for his injuries. 80853-9239



CRAIG L. WENNER

Brookville, Ohio

Craig L. Wenner died attempting to save Patricia S. Wenner from drowning, Englewood, Ohio, December 25, 2006. In an attempt to free her family's dog from the churning water at the base of a low-head dam on the Stillwater River, Patricia, 50, fell into the river at the edge of the dam and became caught in the rough water. Her husband, Craig, 50, project manager, who was a skilled swimmer, immediately entered the river at the dam and reached her, but they soon submerged. Emergency responders, including divers, searched for the couple, but their bodies were not immediately recovered from the river. 80801-9209



SAMARA MARIE WHITE

Davison, Michigan

Samara Marie White died attempting to save Alexia M. VanCleve from burning, Davison, Michigan, November 7, 2006. Alexia, 4, and two of her sisters were in bedrooms on the second floor of their family's house after fire erupted at night on the first floor. Another sister, Samara, 15, high school student, was asleep on the first floor when she was alerted to the fire. As the girls' mother attempted to alert their brother, who also was on the first floor, Samara went upstairs to alert her sisters. She awoke one of them, then entered Alexia's bedroom. All other occupants of the house fled to safety as flames grew quickly and dense smoke filled the structure. A police officer and a firefighter soon arrived on the scene and attempted to enter the house but were repelled by the smoke. Samara and Alexia, found in Alexia's bedroom, had both succumbed to smoke inhalation. 79891-9181



LINDSEY A. WITHERSPOON

Kingsport, Tennessee

Lindsey A. Witherspoon saved a woman from drowning, Kingsport, Tennessee, December 26, 2007. A vehicle driven by a 20-year-old woman began to submerge nose first in Fort Patrick Henry Lake after leaving the adjoining parking lot. Witherspoon, 18, college student, who was nearby, immediately ran to the bank of the lake and, removing items of attire, entered the water, despite its cold temperature. She swam about 75 feet out to the driver's side of the car, where the woman was struggling to emerge through the window of the front door. Witherspoon grasped the woman about her arms and pulled her the rest of the way from the vehicle. With difficulty, the woman nearly submerging her, Witherspoon swam her to wadable water at the bank, where others aided them from the lake. The woman was taken to the hospital, and Witherspoon was cold but uninjured. 80901-9217



MICHAEL J. ZIMMERMAN

Morton, Illinois

Michael J. Zimmerman rescued Paul A. McCollar from burning, Williamsfield, Illinois, August 16, 2007. McCollar, 43, was trapped inside the cab of a tractor-trailer after an accident on an interstate highway. The cab had turned onto its side in the accident, and flames broke out on it and inside. Traveling on the same highway, Zimmerman, 53, mason contractor, came upon the burning wreckage and stopped at the scene. Seeing movement inside the cab, he kicked a hole in the windshield. After another man who had arrived removed that section of windshield, Zimmerman entered the cab through the opening. McCollar, who was conscious, was suspended by his safety belt. Zimmerman freed him and then grasped and pulled him from the cab. McCollar stood, and Zimmerman and the other man walked him across the highway to safety. Flames shortly engulfed the cab. McCollar was hospitalized for treatment of numerous injuries, including a burn to his left hand. He recovered. 80628-9243

CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION



Robert P. Bercel of Richmond, Mich., was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2009 for helping to rescue a man from an overturned and burning van after a highway accident. Holding his award certificate and his grandson Noah Bean, he is shown with, from left, daughter Tiffany Bean, wife Linda, and parents Al and Sharon Schildt. Photo, by Todd McInturf, is courtesy of The Detroit News.



Casey Marie Peirce of Calgary, Alta., was awarded the medal in 2009 for saving a couple from drowning in a cold mountain lake when their canoe capsized. She was photographed by her sister Darcy Peirce on the bank of the lake an hour before her heroic act.

HEROIC ACTS RECOGNIZED DURING 2009

The following persons were cited by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission in 2009 for having performed outstanding acts of heroism. In each case, a Carnegie Medal and a financial grant were awarded.



ROSETTA M. ALBRIGHT

Sapulpa, Oklahoma

Rosetta M. Albright died saving Havana Jastrzemski from burning, Sapulpa, Oklahoma, November 17, 2008. Havana, 3, was in the bedroom in one end of her family's mobile home after fire broke out in the hall outside that room at night. Her mother and others, including Albright, 47, escaped the structure but realized that Havana and her grandfather were still inside. Albright re-entered the mobile home through the front door and made her way through the burning hall to the far bedroom. Havana's mother responded to a point outside the window of a bathroom adjoining the bedroom and received Havana as she was passed safely through it. Flames spread throughout the structure. Firefighters found the bodies of Albright and Havana's grandfather in the bathroom below the window. They had died of smoke inhalation and burns. 81747-9301



R. JASON ALTMAN

Andrews, South Carolina

R. Jason Altman died helping to save Keith E. Gibson from suffocation, Georgetown, South Carolina, November 4, 2006. Gibson, 39, lost consciousness in the oxygen-deficient atmosphere of the chemical dryer that he was cleaning at the plant where he was employed. When those responding, including Altman, 27, operator, could not remove him through the opening in the top of the dryer, Altman entered the unit. He lifted Gibson toward the opening, where the others secured a hold on him and pulled him to safety. After focusing on Gibson, reviving him and readying him for emergency medical personnel, the other workers realized that Altman was unaccounted for, and they found him lying unconscious in the dryer. Two men equipped with air supply entered the dryer and lifted Altman toward the opening, where a third man, unprotected, extended his upper body through the opening to grasp him. The third man with others pulled Altman from the dryer. Both he and Gibson were taken to the hospital, where Gibson was detained a day for treatment. He recovered. Altman could not be revived. The third man also required hospitalization, for treatment of severe respiratory distress.

79868-9269



TOBY AMES

Runnells, Iowa

Toby Ames saved Sarah M. Elrod from burning, Mitchellville, Iowa, July 18, 2008. Elrod, 21, was unconscious inside her automobile following its collision with a cargo truck. Flames erupted at the back of the car, which, severely damaged, remained in contact with the front of the truck. Driving on the same highway, Ames, 38, landscaper, witnessed the crash and stopped at the scene. Despite flames issuing from the rear half of the car, he opened

its driver's door, reached inside, and unfastened Elrod's safety belt. He then lifted her from the vehicle and carried her to safety. Flames grew to engulf the car and spread to the truck. Elrod required extensive hospitalization and rehabilitation for severe injuries. 81435-9284



LEDFORD WAYNE ARTHUR

Paint Bank, Virginia

Ledford Wayne Arthur saved Dennis D. Williams from electrocution, New Castle, Virginia, April 20, 2007. Williams, 48, and Arthur, 53, were repairing a commercial electric oven in the high school where they were employed as maintenance workers. While removing a heating element from the oven, Williams, who was seated on the floor, received an electric shock. His hands locked on the energized element, he convulsed, unable to speak. Standing next to him, Arthur saw him convulse and knew that he was being shocked. Arthur immediately lunged at Williams and pushed him away from the oven, thereby breaking his hold of the element. Doing so, Arthur felt a shock in one arm. Williams was treated at the hospital for electrical burns to both hands, and he recovered. 81186-9262



JOHN AUGUSTUS BAKER II

Brunswick, Georgia

John Augustus Baker II saved Emily A. Wagner and Laura King from drowning, St. Simons Island, Georgia, July 23, 2008. Emily and Laura, both 15, and Emily's older sister were on a sandbar in the Atlantic Ocean about 300 feet off the beach when the incoming tide stranded them there. Others on the beach called 911, and responders included firefighters who were neither trained nor fully equipped for water rescue. Fearing there was insufficient time for a Coast Guard unit to arrive, one of the firefighters, Baker, 25, entered the water with a rescue tube, as did a male bystander

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who had been walking on the beach. Having to swim across a strong lateral current and against the incoming tide, the men made their way to the sandbar. Baker positioned Emily and Laura on the rescue tube and started to return to shore, pulling them, as the other man returned to shore with Emily's sister. As he swam, Baker struggled against the current and the weight of the girls, but he made it to the beach safely with them.

81470-9295



ROSS MCKAY BARFUSS

Aloha, Oregon

Ross McKay Barfuss died attempting to save River Jenison from drowning, Gleneden Beach, Oregon, March 8, 2008. River, 11, was playing on a Pacific Ocean beach when he was swept into the water. The surf was extremely turbulent, with nine-foot waves breaking and strong currents, including rips and a swift longshore current. River struggled in the 45-degree water to regain his footing. Ross, 16, student, was in the vicinity with another party when he became aware of River's plight. He immediately ran to a point closer to River and entered the water for him but was felled by a wave. Regaining his footing, he made another attempt, with a friend, but again he was taken down by the rough surf. Ross was carried out from shore as he struggled to reach River and was soon lost from sight. Arriving rescue personnel recovered River by helicopter. He was taken to the hospital, but he could not be revived. Ross's body was recovered a month later. 81076-9245



MARK BARNARD

Regina, Saskatchewan

Mark Barnard helped to rescue Julie E. Wharram from burning, Armstrong, British Columbia, July 23, 2007. Wharram, 25, was the driver of an automobile that, at night, left the highway, went down an embankment, and overturned onto its roof. Flames erupted in the front of the car and

issued from its exposed underside. Wharram was trapped inside the car, suspended upside down by her safety belt. Motorists, including Barnard, 21, carpenter, and two friends, drove upon the scene and stopped. Barnard crawled partway into the car through the window of the driver's door to attempt to free Wharram but could not, and he withdrew. The men then fought the flames with available aids but reduced them only momentarily, and the fire spread to the interior of the car. One of the men then obtained a knife from another motorist, crawled partway through the driver's window, and cut Wharram's safety belt. As he maneuvered her toward the window, Barnard and the other man reached inside and grasped her, and the three men pulled her from the vehicle. They carried her away, flames spreading to engulf the car shortly. Wharram required lengthy hospitalization for extensive and serious burns and other injuries. Barnard suffered mild smoke inhalation, and he recovered. 81141-9289



TOMMY EARL BARNHILL

Georgetown, South Carolina

Tommy Earl Barnhill helped attempt to save R. Jason Altman from suffocation, Georgetown, South Carolina, November 4, 2006. Altman, 27, lost consciousness in the oxygen-deficient atmosphere of a chemical dryer at the plant where he was employed while helping to rescue a coworker from the dryer. Barnhill, 43, operator, had responded to that area of the plant on being alerted to the accident, and he and others went to the dryer when they learned that Altman was unaccounted for. Two men equipped with air supply entered the dryer through an opening in its top and lifted Altman as Barnhill, unprotected, extended his upper body through the opening to grasp him. With others he pulled Altman from the dryer. Altman and Barnhill were taken to the hospital, but Altman could not be revived. Barnhill was detained for treatment of severe respiratory distress. 80711-9270



SHALINDER KAUR BASRAN

Surrey, British Columbia

Shalinder Kaur Basran attempted to rescue Navreet K. Waraich from assault, Surrey, British Columbia, October 29, 2006. During an argument in their apartment, which was on the ground floor of a two-level house, Waraich, 23, was stabbed repeatedly by her husband. Basran, 58, who owned the house, was in her second-floor quarters when she heard screaming. She and her daughter responded to the apartment's outside door and gained entry to the unit when the assailant opened the door. They saw Waraich lying on the floor, bloodied and pleading for help. Basran's daughter exited the apartment and called police. When the assailant picked up a knife and approached Waraich, Basran grasped him by the shoulder and pulled him away. He discarded the weapon. Basran took him from the apartment and remained with him for several minutes, until police arrived and arrested him. Waraich died of her wounds. 81322-9247



BRUCE A. BAXTER

Petaluma, California

Bruce A. Baxter rescued Mary E. Newman from burning, Petaluma, California, December 22, 2008. Newman, 87, was in the living room of her doublewide mobile home after an accidental fire broke out in that room. Her next-door neighbor, Baxter, 58, accountant, was alerted to the fire by the structure's smoke alarm. He responded to the scene, gained entry through the front door, and saw Newman, whose attire was aflame, sitting on a couch in the far end of the living room. He crossed the smoky room to her, lifted her from the couch, and patted out the flames on her attire. Grasping her, Baxter ushered her to the front door and outside to safety as flames spread quickly to engulf that end of the mobile home, destroying it. Newman was hospitalized for treatment of severe burns and died of her injuries two months later.

81813-9300



ROBERT P. BERCEL

Richmond, Michigan

Robert P. Bercel helped to save William J. Shepherd from burning, New Haven, Michigan, September 28, 2007. Shepherd, 78, was trapped inside a burning van that came to rest on its driver's side after a collision with a tractor-trailer. The vehicles were only a few feet apart, with flames issuing from the front of the tractor and the exposed underside of the van. Bercel, 46, laborer, drove upon the scene and stopped. He approached the front of the van, removed its windshield, and, crouching, stepped inside. Finding Shepherd's legs pinned by the steering wheel, Bercel pulled up on it, freeing him. With flames growing on the outside of the van, Shepherd grasped Bercel around his neck, and Bercel backed from the vehicle, pulling him. Two other men had approached and helped remove Shepherd fully from the van. Bercel and the other men then carried Shepherd away from the van, which was shortly engulfed by flames. Shepherd was hospitalized a day for treatment of lacerations to his arm, and Bercel sustained minor lacerations. Both men recovered. (See photo, p. 68.) 81391-9297



EDWARD BOHAN

Franklin Square, New York

Edward Bohan rescued John H. Collymore from burning, North Hempstead, New York, July 1, 2008. Collymore, 58, was the driver of a sport utility vehicle that, in the hours before dawn, left the roadway, struck a utility pole and a tree, and caught fire. Flames spread to the interior of the vehicle as Collymore, who was injured in the accident, attempted to free himself. Approaching in his vehicle, Bohan, 31, off-duty firefighter, observed the flames and stopped at the scene. After finding the doors to the vehicle locked, Bohan used a metal post that was nearby to smash the driver's window. He then opened the door, leaned into the vehicle, and unfastened Collymore's safety belt. Grasping Collymore under the arms, Bohan pulled him from the vehicle to the ground, and then he and another man dragged

Collymore away shortly before flames grew to engulf the vehicle. Collymore required extensive hospitalization for treatment of serious burns and other injuries. Bohan also received hospital treatment, for second-degree burns and cuts to his hands, and he recovered. 81394-9268



RANDALL SCOTT BREWER

Lancaster, New Hampshire

Randall Scott Brewer died helping to save a boy from drowning, Lancaster, New Hampshire, April 19, 2008. An 11-year-old boy jumped into the swift, cold water of the Israel River and had difficulty staying afloat. After a teenage girl in his party entered the river for him and also experienced difficulty, Brewer, 27, another member of the party, removed his shoes and outer attire and entered the 38-degree water. Brewer made his way to the boy and pushed him toward safety. Then caught by the current, Brewer was carried downstream and submerged. The boy was not injured. Brewer's body was found the next day; he had died of accidental drowning. 81173-9277



GREGORY BRYANT

Port Hadlock, Washington

Gregory Bryant attempted to rescue Sandra J. Bundy from burning, Chimacum, Washington, May 21, 2008. Bundy, 74, was inside her two-story house after fire broke out on the first floor, in the living room. Flames spread almost to engulf the structure. Traveling nearby, Bryant, 20, delivery driver, saw smoke and, reporting the fire, responded to the scene. He ran to the front door of the house, where he saw Bundy lying on the floor just inside. Bryant crouched down and entered the house, despite flames that were consuming it and blistering heat. He grasped Bundy by the forearms and dragged her out of the house and away from it. Others arrived and helped to move her farther from the house, the walls and roof of which were collapsing. Badly burned, Bundy died at the scene. Bryant was hospitalized a week for treatment of burns, up to third-degree, to his hands, wrists, forearms, face, and knee. Requiring skin grafting, he missed several months' work. 81273-9255



JOSHUA A. BUMGARNER

Bostic, North Carolina

Joshua A. Bumgarner helped to rescue Mamie T. Gumbs from burning, Forest City, North Carolina, March 19, 2009. In the middle of the night, Gumbs, 80, was in her bedroom after fire erupted in the adjoining living room and grew significantly. The police officer who discovered the fire heard Gumbs yelling for help and gained access to the residence through a door that opened to a hall leading to her bedroom. Another responding police officer, Bumgarner, 23, entered the structure after the first officer was forced out by dense smoke and intense heat. Bumgarner was also repulsed by the intolerable conditions. The first officer re-entered the structure, ran into Gumbs's bedroom, and pulled her to the bedroom doorway before having to retreat again. Bumgarner then re-entered, proceeded through the hall to the bedroom, which was aflame, and pulled Gumbs closer to the door before being forced out. He and the first officer entered the structure a third time and pulled Gumbs outside to safety. Gumbs required hospitalization for treatment of severe burns. 82103-9321



COURTNEY E. BUTLER

Stephenville, Texas

Courtney E. Butler died attempting to save Carlos Manzano from drowning, Glen Rose, Texas, May 29, 2007. Manzano, 19, entered the Paluxy River, which was flooded from heavy rains, and was caught in turbulent water at a low-water crossing. He yelled for help. Members of his party at the scene included Courtney, 16. She immediately entered the river in a rescue attempt but also became caught in the same turbulent water. Manzano was washed downstream, to where he clung to a tree until he was rescued by a sheriff's deputy. He required hospital treatment, and he recovered. Also swept downstream, Courtney drowned. 81162-9258

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RICHARD S. CAMERON

Naples, Florida

Richard S. Cameron helped to save Ray J. Davis from drowning, East Naples, Florida, July 3, 2008. Davis, 55, was the driver of a sport utility vehicle that left the roadway, entered a golf course lake, and began to submerge, upright, in water about 25 feet deep. Approaching the scene in his vehicle, Cameron, 36, construction worker, witnessed the accident. He parked and ran to the lake, removing his shirt and shoes. With the vehicle then about 25 feet from the bank, Cameron swam to it, joining another motorist who had swum out. Cameron extended his upper body through the window of the driver's door, grasped Davis under the arms, and pulled on him as the other man, from inside the car, pushed. They struggled, as Davis's leg was caught on the steering wheel. Davis became free as the vehicle submerged. Cameron took him to the surface and swam to the bank with him as the other man climbed from the car and surfaced. He too swam to the bank. Davis required a month's hospitalization. 81480-9264



ROLANDO CAMPUZANO, SR.

Warm Springs, Oregon

Rolando Campuzano, Sr., died attempting to save Rolando Campuzano, Jr., from burning, Warm Springs, Oregon, January 14, 2009. Rolando, 4, was with his parents in their bedroom of the family's one-story house after fire erupted in the living room at night. Alerted to the fire, the parents attempted to extinguish it and then fled the structure with four other children. A police officer responded, at which time the parents discovered Rolando's absence. Campuzano, 26, cook, immediately ran to the house as the officer attempted to restrain him. He entered through the front door into the burning living room and disappeared from view. Firefighters later recovered the bodies of Rolando and his father from the house, both victims of smoke inhalation.

82013-9323



JACOB T. CARR

Jacksonville, Oregon

Jacob T. Carr rescued James J. Frings, Sr., from burning, Jacksonville, Oregon, November 15, 2008. Frings, 70, lay in the living room of his one-story house after fire broke out in the structure. His next-door neighbor, Carr, 33, vascular technologist, responded to the front door of the burning house and opened it to intense heat, dense smoke, and ammunition that was detonating in the spreading flames. Carr called out repeatedly to Frings and then saw his hand at a point about 10 feet from the door. He crawled to Frings, grasped him about the forearm, and, retracing his steps, dragged Frings to the front door and outside to safety. Frings required hospitalization for burns, up to second-degree, and he recovered. 81782-9304



SCOTT O. CLARKE

Nashua, New Hampshire

Scott O. Clarke helped to save Lisa D. Ladd from burning, Sugar Hill, New Hampshire, September 6, 2008. Ladd, 54, was the driver and sole occupant of an automobile that left an interstate highway, struck an embankment, and rolled onto its passenger side. Fire erupted on the engine. Other motorists, including Clarke, 43, public works employee, stopped at the scene. Clarke approached the burning vehicle and, joining another motorist who had stopped, reached through the open window of the driver's door but was unsuccessful in freeing Ladd from her safety belt. With a special tool, Clarke then cut Ladd's shoulder belt while the other motorist supported her to keep her from dropping to the bottom of the vehicle. Clarke then mounted the car, reached inside, and cut Ladd's lap belt. The men maneuvered her from the vehicle moments before flames increased to engulf it. Ladd required hospitalization for treatment of her injuries, but she was not burned. 81548-9299



RICHARD CONINE

Queensbury, New York

Richard Conine helped to save Charles L. Mingo from drowning, Queensbury, New York, April 2, 2008. Ice fishing on Harris Bay of Lake George, Mingo, 62, was returning to the bank when he broke through weakened ice into water about 15 feet deep and could not climb back out. Conine, 49, who managed a marina on the bay in the vicinity, had been watching him fish and saw that he had broken through the ice, at a point about 1,150 feet from the marina. Conine called 911 and, taking a 20-foot length of dock line, which he tied to a life ring, responded to the end of one of the docks. Although ice on the bay was deteriorating, opening sections of water, Conine and another marina employee who had responded stepped onto the ice and made their way about 800 feet toward Mingo, crawling the last several feet. Conine threw the ring toward Mingo, but it fell short. Having to cross a pressure ridge in the ice that was between them, Conine again threw the ring. Mingo secured a hold of it, but, lacking traction, Conine could not pull him out. The other employee joined him, and, bracing their feet into the slushy surface of the ice, they pulled Mingo out of the open water, the other employee breaking through the ice with his foot at one point. They dragged him away from the hole and toward the bank, where firefighters were responding. Conine and the other employee returned to the bank as firefighters removed Mingo from the ice by means of a hovercraft. He was taken to the hospital, where he was detained for treatment of hypothermia. He recovered. 81188-9248



CLERC HIGGINS COOPER

New Orleans, Louisiana

Clerc Higgins Cooper helped to save two men from drowning, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 13, 2008. Two men and a woman were aboard a small motorboat that became disabled and then swamped in Lake Pontchartrain at a point about 500 feet from shore. Clerc, 14, student, and

two friends, who had just left a nearby harbor in a 19-foot sailboat, saw the disabled craft and responded toward it. When a woman who had been on the boat jumped from it and swam toward the approaching sailboat, Clerc removed her lifejacket and threw it to her. The disabled boat capsized about then, sending the two men into the 58-degree water, where they struggled in its two-foot chop. As Clerc's friends worked to pull the woman aboard the sailboat, Clerc took a flotation device and, without removing any items of attire, entered the water. She swam about 20 feet to the two men and gave the flotation device to one of them. Clerc then swam to the capsized boat and located another flotation device, which she gave to the second man. As her friends returned the woman to shore, Clerc waited atop the exposed hull of the overturned boat. A man and his son arrived shortly in a small, inflated dinghy, took the two men aboard, and returned them to shore as the overturned boat with Clerc atop it was carried by the wind and waves toward a seawall along the shore. Her friends returned in a motorboat for her and took her to safety. Clerc was cold and bruised, but she recovered. 81148-9250



PAUL COSSALTER

Wrenshall, Minnesota

Paul Cossalter died attempting to save Joseph P. Kimmes III, Scott A. Kimmes, and Harold N. Olsen from suffocation, Superior, Wisconsin, November 1, 2007. Joseph, 44, and his brother, Scott, 40, were replacing a pump inside a lift station at a landfill. Working with them was Olsen, 47. The lift station was a 20-foot-deep, belowground chamber in which water was collecting at the bottom. Joseph lost consciousness in the lift station, the atmosphere of which was found to contain lethal levels of hydrogen sulfide gas. Scott then climbed into the lift station, followed by Olsen. A friend of the Kimmes brothers, Cossalter, 41, contractor, had stopped at the worksite and was present when Joseph was overcome. He told another man at the scene to call for help, and then he too climbed into the lift station and was overcome. Rescue personnel arrived and, equipped with safety gear, entered the lift station after ventilating it and removed the four men, all of whom had been asphyxiated. 81416-9279

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DEREK J. CREEL

Warrior, Alabama

Derek J. Creel saved Trenton S. and attempted to save Timothy W. Sigafoose from drowning, Warrior, Alabama, March 27, 2009. Trenton, 7, and his father, Sigafoose, 42, were thrown into the cold and swift-flowing water of the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River when their canoe capsized shortly after launching. They held to the overturned 14-foot craft as it was swept downstream. Creel, 19, server assistant, was fishing from the bank and witnessed the accident. He ran along the bank to a point ahead of the canoe and then entered the 54-degree water, swam out to the middle of the river, and intercepted it. Creel grasped one end of the canoe and attempted to tow it to the bank, but the current overcame his efforts, and the canoe continued downstream. As Sigafoose was losing consciousness, Creel held him to the canoe and attempted to rouse him. A tree protruding from the bank into the river came into view after the canoe traveled about three-quarters of a mile downstream. Creel took the canoe into the tree, but the impact forced him under water. Surfacing, he placed Trenton into a fork of the tree and then maintained a hold of Sigafoose, who was unresponsive, for as long as he could. Creel joined Trenton in the tree to await help. Firefighters responded by boat and removed both to safety. Creel was nearly exhausted after the rescue, and he sustained scrapes and contusions. He recovered. Sigafoose's body was found in the river four days after the accident. 82119-9325



JAMES D. CROCKER

Valley City, Ohio

James D. Crocker rescued Douglas K. Spielberg from burning, Valley City, Ohio, September 3, 2007. Spielberg, 49, was trapped inside his sport utility vehicle after it left the roadway in an accident, overturned onto its driver's side, and caught fire in its engine area. Crocker, 52, dairy farmer, who lived at the scene, was alerted to the accident. Unable to gain access to the vehicle through its side doors, he opened its rear hatch. Although the vehicle was

filled with smoke and flames were beginning to enter it at the front, Crocker, who was shirtless, stepped inside, made his way to Spielberg, and released Spielberg's safety belt. Flames by then were at Spielberg's feet and legs. Crocker grasped Spielberg underneath the arms, dragged him to the rear of the vehicle, and pulled him out. Others moved Spielberg away from the vehicle, which was shortly engulfed by flames. Spielberg was taken to the hospital, where he was treated for burns. Crocker sustained minor burns to his back, chest, and legs, and he recovered. 81261-9246



RYAN W. DERRY

Sherwood, Oregon

Ryan W. Derry helped to rescue Abilsai Morales-Roblero from burning, Portland, Oregon, August 30, 2008. Unconscious, Morales-Roblero, 20, was trapped in the front passenger seat of a sport utility vehicle that crashed into a hillside at night. The back end of the vehicle caught fire, and flames spread into the passenger compartment. Derry, 34, on duty as a police officer, responded to the scene and approached the passenger side of the burning vehicle. Another motorist had helped to open the front passenger door and had attempted to free Morales-Roblero from the wreckage, and he was calling for a knife to cut his safety belt. As flames had reached the back of the front seats and issued high off the rear of the vehicle, Derry extended his upper body through the passenger door with a knife and freed Morales-Roblero of his safety belt. The two rescuers then grasped Morales-Roblero by the arms, pulled him out, and moved him away shortly before flames grew to engulf the vehicle. Two other occupants of the vehicle died at the scene. Morales-Roblero was hospitalized for treatment of severe injuries, which included second-degree burns. Derry sustained a minor burn to a forearm, and he recovered. 81649-9306



SHAWN WILLIAM EDELE

Fruitport, Michigan

Shawn William Edele died after helping to save John P. Van Etten from drowning, Delray Beach, Florida, May 31, 2007. Van Etten, 23, and his coworker, Edele, 31, cable installer, were wading and swimming in the Atlantic Ocean. Pulled farther from shore, Van Etten tried to swim back, but he made no progress in the rough water against the current. He called for help to Edele, who was in knee-deep water nearer shore. Edele swam out to Van Etten, established a hold on him, and supported him to keep his head out of the water. A wave broke over and separated them. Edele was pulled farther out, but Van Etten struggled to swim to shore and reached wadable water and then the beach, where he lay exhausted. Rescue personnel responded shortly and recovered Edele from a point about 250 feet from shore. He was taken to the hospital but could not be revived, as he had drowned. 80443-9252



ROBERT FERRELL

Jobstown, New Jersey

Robert Ferrell died attempting to save Michelle A. Ferrell from burning, Jobstown, New Jersey, February 27, 2008. Ferrell, 53, was in a second-floor bedroom of her 2.5-story house after fire broke out at the rear of the first floor at night. Her son, Robert, 14, student, escaped the house, from his first-floor bedroom, as did her daughter and another son. Realizing that his mother had not exited the house, Robert told his sister that he was going back inside for her. Dense smoke issued from the front door as Robert entered the structure and proceeded upstairs. Police officers who arrived shortly attempted to gain entry but were forced out by deteriorating conditions. Firefighters removed Ferrell and Robert from the second floor. Both had died of smoke inhalation. 81062-9254



THOMAS EUGENE FOUST

Glenview, Illinois

Thomas Eugene Foust saved a woman from being struck by a train, Glenview, Illinois, September 8, 2007. An 83-year-old woman mistakenly drove her automobile onto one of two railroad tracks at a crossing, and the car became stuck as a passenger train approached on that track at high speed. Thomas, 17, student, who had been driving with a few friends behind the woman, saw what was happening. He and others immediately ran to the car as the crossing's gates and bell were activated, indicating that the train was about 32 seconds away. Thomas and his friends urged the woman to exit her car, and as the train bore down, he pulled open the driver's door, reached inside, and unfastened her safety belt. He then pulled the woman from the car, took her 10 feet to a fence that bordered the track bed, and shielded her with his body. Within seconds, the train struck the car and knocked it into the path of another train, which was approaching on the second track. The car was struck again, sending debris flying. The woman was shaken but uninjured. 80678-9265



WALTER M. GANNON

Belvidere, Illinois

Walter M. Gannon rescued Carolyn E. Gilbert from assault, Elgin, Illinois, January 18, 2008. Gilbert, 50, was in her high school classroom when a 16-year-old boy who had been in the room with her approached her from behind, put a coat over her head, and stabbed her in the eye. The assailant took her to the floor, where he continued to stab her. Gilbert's screams attracted the attention of Gannon, 55, a teacher who was in an adjoining classroom. Gannon responded to the door of Gilbert's room and saw the assailant atop her. Entering the room, Gannon shouted at the assailant to get off Gilbert. The assailant stood, dropped the knife, and stepped back. Gannon stood between Gilbert and the assailant as Gilbert regained her foot-

ing and fled the room. Ordering the assailant to sit at a desk, Gannon alerted the school office and then remained at the classroom door to keep him from leaving. The assailant was shortly arrested. Gilbert was hospitalized for treatment of serious knife wounds. 82187-9322



KRISTA D. GIRVAN

Edmonton, Alberta

Krista D. Girvan saved a girl from drowning, Edmonton, Alberta, July 17, 2008. A teenaged girl wading along the bank of the North Saskatchewan River entered water beyond her depth and was carried downstream by a swift current. She tired in her attempts to return to the bank. Girvan, 25, nursing student, was walking along the bank in that vicinity when she heard cries for help and then saw the girl in the river. Telling others nearby to call for help, Girvan ran along the bank after the girl. When she saw that the girl was having trouble staying afloat, Girvan concluded there was not enough time for rescuers to arrive. She removed her shoes, entered the river, and swam to the girl. She grasped her and, despite her training as a lifeguard, struggled against the current as she towed her to the bank, the current taking them several hundred feet downstream. Rescue personnel aided them from the water and provided treatment. Girvan was fatigued, but she recovered. 81721-9326



GEORGE E. GORTON III

Ware, Massachusetts

George E. Gorton III attempted to rescue a girl from an out-of-control vehicle, East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, August 2, 2008. A 3-year-old girl was alone in her family's passenger van, which was parked facing downhill along a residential street. The van began to coast down the grade, attracting the attention of those at a yard sale across the street, including Gorton, 45, biomedical engineer. Although he was wearing cycling shoes with exposed cleats, Gorton immediately ran to the van, but it was moving too fast for him

to open a door. He extended his arms through the open window of the driver's door and pulled on the steering wheel to keep the van from striking a car parked in its path. His feet dragging on the pavement, Gordon then steered the van toward the rise of a yard on the opposite side of the street. The van approached the yard but came too close to another parked car for Gorton to clear it. Caught between the two vehicles, he was thrown to the pavement. The van continued but came to a stop on striking a tree in the yard. The girl was uninjured, but Gorton suffered a broken leg, requiring hospitalization, surgery, and extended convalescence. 81478-9275



KIM R. GROVE

Pilot Mound, Iowa

Kim R. Grove saved Breck A. Clark from drowning, Pilot Mound, Iowa, February 22, 2009. Clark, 58, was the driver of a car that entered the Des Moines River, floated briefly, and then sank at a point about 100 feet from the bank. Grove, 45, fusion technician, lived along the bank in that vicinity and responded to the scene after hearing the accident. He saw the car before it sank and saw that it was occupied. After leaving to report the accident, he returned to the river, which was icy and swift, entered it, and swam toward where he had last seen the car. He then saw Clark's head resurface about 50 feet away. Grove swam to him, secured a hold on him, and kicked toward the bank. When they reached wadable water, Grove's son aided in removing Clark from the river. They then took Clark to Grove's residence, where they warmed him. 82068-9327



FRANCIS J. GUTIERREZ

Middletown, Rhode Island

Francis J. Gutierrez helped to rescue Keith T. Ulich from burning, Middletown, Rhode Island, July 3, 2008. Ulich, 38, and two others were aboard a light aircraft that crashed into trees just beyond an airport runway. It landed upright and broke into flames, which spread into the cockpit.

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Residents of a nearby neighborhood, including Gutierrez, 51, marine electronics technician, heard the crash and responded to the scene. Despite intense heat and growing flames, Gutierrez approached the airplane, joining another neighborhood resident who had pulled Ulich partway through the cockpit doorway onto the wing. The two men grasped Ulich and pulled him the remaining distance out of the airplane and to the ground. They then removed their shirts to extinguish flames on him. Ulich was severely burned and died 10 weeks later. The two other occupants of the airplane died at the scene. 82237-9283



PAUL HAAS
Chagrin Falls, Ohio

Paul Haas helped attempt to rescue Timothy B. Haas from suffocation, Chagrin Falls, Ohio, May 30, 2008. Timothy, 17, was overcome by fumes after entering a 20,000-gallon, aboveground gasoline storage tank to rescue his father, who had been affected by the fumes as he was cleaning the tank. Timothy helped in getting his father out of the tank, but then he collapsed inside. His father re-entered the tank for him. Another worker who was present shouted for help to Timothy's brother, Paul, 19, laborer, who was nearby. Paul then entered the tank, and together he and his father attempted to lift Timothy. Paul collapsed. Responding rescue personnel removed all three men from the tank. Timothy died at the scene of asphyxia. Paul and his father required hospital treatment for their injuries, Paul being detained 19 days for treatment of extensive chemical burns and respiratory distress.

82439-9312



TIMOTHY B. HAAS

Chagrin Falls, Ohio

Timothy B. Haas died after helping to rescue Bruce M. Haas from suffocation, Chagrin Falls, Ohio, May 30, 2008. Bruce, 49, became disoriented by fumes while inside the 20,000-gallon, aboveground gasoline storage tank that he was cleaning. His son, Timothy, 17, high school student, was working with him on the job and was atop the tank with another worker. When they saw Bruce's affected state and called to him, Timothy without hesitation entered the tank through a small opening in its top and descended to its floor. He grasped Bruce and with difficulty aided him up the ladder toward the opening, where the other worker helped Bruce leave the tank. Timothy then collapsed in the tank. As the other worker shouted for help to Timothy's brother, who was nearby, Bruce re-entered the tank for Timothy. Timothy's brother then entered the tank, and together he and Bruce attempted to lift Timothy. The brother collapsed. Responding rescue personnel removed all three men from the tank. Bruce and Timothy's brother required hospital treatment for their injuries, but Timothy died at the scene of asphyxia.

81293-9311



RICHARD SHAWN HARPER

Fort Worth, Texas

Richard Shawn Harper helped to save Brittany L. Williams from drowning, Richland Hills, Texas, March 13, 2009. Brittany, 9, entered a concrete-lined drainage ditch and was swept by the swift water it carried into a below-ground chamber, from which the water flowed into a large culvert. Harper, 38, sales associate, was in a vehicle that was passing through the vicinity when he was alerted to the accident. He entered the ditch, proceeded toward the chamber, and then slid into it. Bracing himself with his feet against the chamber wall to the side of the culvert, Harper grasped Brittany and held her against his chest, thereby protecting her from the onrushing water. After

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holding to Brittany for several minutes in the 55-degree water, arriving firefighters lowered a ladder and one end of a line to them. They removed Britiany from the chamber and then Harper. Both were taken to the hospital for treatment of hypothermia, and they recovered. 82139-9319



ALLEN CHADWICK HARRIS

Nashville, Tennessee

Allen Chadwick Harris saved Calvin E. Coleman from burning, Nashville, Tennessee, January 28, 2009. Calvin, 3, was asleep in a first-floor bedroom of his family's house after fire broke out in a nearby bedroom and filled the floor with dense smoke. A neighbor, Harris, 24, musician, was returning home when he came upon the fire. Learning from Calvin's family members that Calvin was still in the house, Harris attempted entry through the front door but was repelled by the smoke. He then approached a window of the room in which Calvin was sleeping and with others broke it out. Boosted up to the window by the others, Harris climbed through it and entered the smoke-filled room. Going to his hands and knees and keeping his eyes closed against the smoke and heat, Harris searched the room for Calvin, having to retreat to the window for air repeatedly. On hearing Calvin moan, Harris penetrated the room farther and found him on the floor. Harris picked him up and, momentarily disoriented, crawled back to the window. He handed Calvin out to the others and then crawled outside the window to safety. Calvin was hospitalized for treatment of smoke inhalation, and Harris also received hospital treatment for smoke inhalation. They recovered. 81968-9324



EDWIN HERNANDEZ

Reading, Pennsylvania

Edwin Hernandez rescued a woman from assault, Reading, Pennsylvania, April 18, 2008. A 65-year-old woman was in the living room of her residence, which adjoined a small store that she operated. Her son entered the room and, without provocation, began to punch her and another woman who was

present. The other woman escaped to the outside and called 911 as the assailant continued to attack his mother, severely injuring her, and he then threw a wall unit at her, pinning her to the floor. Hernandez, 31, general contractor, was walking nearby when the other woman alerted him to the attack. He entered the store and proceeded to the living room. There, he heard the 65-year-old woman pleading for help from beneath the wall unit as the assailant was thrusting an 18-inch shard of glass at her through the unit's openings. Hernandez lifted the wall unit from her, but then the assailant threatened him with the shard. Hernandez pushed the wall unit toward the assailant to block him and then lifted the woman and took her into the store-room and outside to safety. Police arrived soon and arrested the assailant. Both women required hospital treatment for their injuries. 81174-9267



CHRISTOPHER HESS

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Christopher Hess saved Corey Baxter from drowning, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 19, 2008. Corey, 6, was in a car that left a parking area and dropped from a wall into the Schuylkill River. It sank to the floor of the river in water about 12 feet deep at a point about 15 feet from the bank. Hess, 28, project engineer, responded to the bank from nearby and learned that Corey was in the river. Seeing bubbles at the surface of the water, he removed his shoes and shirt, jumped into the river, and in repeated dives searched the murky water for Corey. Only then learning that Corey was in a submerged vehicle, Hess dived again, located the car, and opened its driver's door. After surfacing for air, he submerged again, entered the car, and found Corey in the front passenger seat. Hess grasped Corey underneath the arms and backed out of the car and surfaced with him. A marine police officer who had arrived by boat attempted to revive Corey and then took him to the bank. Corey was taken to the hospital for treatment. Hess was returned to the bank by police boat, and he too was taken to the hospital, where he was treated for lacerations to both hands. He recovered. 81320-9257



ANDREW DOUGLAS HILDERMAN

Regina, Saskatchewan

Andrew Douglas Hilderman helped to rescue Julie E. Wharram from burning, Armstrong, British Columbia, July 23, 2007. Wharram, 25, was the driver of an automobile that, at night, left the highway, went down an embankment, and overturned onto its roof. Flames erupted in the front of the car and issued from its exposed underside. Wharram was trapped inside the car, suspended upside down by her safety belt. Motorists, including Hilderman, 21, landscape manager, and two friends, drove upon the scene and stopped. After one of his friends crawled partway into the car through the window of the driver's door and attempted to free Wharram, Hilderman and the two friends fought the flames with available aids. They reduced them only momentarily, and the fire spread to the interior of the car. One of the friends then obtained a knife from another motorist, crawled partway through the driver's window, and cut Wharram's safety belt. As he maneuvered her toward the window, Hilderman and the other friend reached inside and grasped her, and the three men pulled her from the vehicle. They carried her away, flames spreading to engulf the car shortly. Wharram required lengthy hospitalization for extensive and serious burns and other injuries. 81140-9291



MICHAEL ALLEN HILL

Larwill, Indiana

Michael Allen Hill helped to save Lauren M. Coffee from burning, Columbia City, Indiana, February 21, 2008. Coffee, 18, was the driver of a four-door automobile that, at night, left a snowy highway at a bridge, went down a steep embankment, and came to rest on its roof in a creek about three feet deep. At some point, flames broke out on the vehicle. Hill, 44, farmer, drove upon the scene and discovered the accident. After reporting it, he descended the embankment to the car and saw Coffee's arm extended through the window of the driver's door. Despite flames issuing from the exposed underside of the vehicle, Hill, standing partially in the creek, reached his upper body

through the window and grasped Coffee. He pulled her partially from the vehicle. Others arrived and assisted in fully removing Coffee and pulling her to the creek bank as something on the car exploded. Because the embankment was steep and icy, the men carried Coffee through the creek to a point underneath the bridge, where they rested briefly as smoke from the fire hung in the air there. Another explosion at the vehicle occurred. Other responders carried Coffee back to the level of the highway, and she was taken to the hospital for treatment of her injuries. Hill also received hospital treatment, for smoke inhalation, and he recovered. 81744-9313



CHRISTOPHER A. HOWARD

Warren, Oregon

Christopher A. Howard rescued Matthew T. and Matthew R. Lovo from an out-of-control tractor-trailer, St. Helens, Oregon, August 7, 2007. Traveling at about 30 m.p.h. on a four-lane highway, Matthew T. Lovo, 32, was driving a truck tractor pulling two loaded trailers when he lost consciousness and fell to the floor of the cab between the two seats. The rig crossed the opposing lanes of traffic as his son Matthew, 9, who was accompanying him, took over the steering wheel and turned off the ignition. Matthew took the truck, which was slowing, back across the highway. Howard, 36, millwright, was approaching in his vehicle when the tractor-trailer crossed his path and then passed him. Seeing that a boy was attempting to control the rig, Howard immediately left his car on the highway, ran after the truck, and mounted the driver's side of the tractor. He opened the door, partially entered the cab, and stepped hard on the brake pedal, taking the rig to a stop. Lovo was taken to the hospital for observation, and he recovered. 81190-9259



KURT JAMES JOHNSON

Bloxom, Virginia

Kurt James Johnson saved Destineé N. Davis from burning, Pastoria, Virginia, February 6, 2009. Destineé, 3, was a passenger in a car that, at night, left the highway, overturned onto its roof, and caught fire. Her mother escaped the wreckage with two other children. On routine patrol nearby, Johnson, 43, state police trooper, responded to the scene on seeing flames there. Alerted by her mother that Destineé remained in the vehicle, Johnson used his fire extinguisher against flames that issued from the vehicle's exposed underside and engine area. With flames persisting, being fed by leaking gasoline, Johnson then opened the rear door on the passenger side of the vehicle. Although the passenger compartment was filled with dense smoke that precluded visibility, he crawled inside and maneuvered to the front. Finding Destineé under the dashboard, he grasped her by her jacket and hugged her to himself. He maneuvered back to the opened door and exited the car. Flames spread throughout the vehicle. Destineé was hospitalized for treatment of her injuries, and she recovered. Johnson also required hospital treatment, for smoke inhalation, and he too recovered.

81973-9309



ELIZABETH M. KELLEY

Peoria, Illinois

Elizabeth M. Kelley rescued Karen L. Kinsey from assault, Peoria, Illinois, December 17, 2007. Kinsey, 50, was loading the back of her sport utility vehicle, which was in the parking lot of a mall, when a man approached from behind and attacked her. Kinsey fought back and shouted for help as the assailant punched her in the face, taking her to the pavement. Kelley, 26, social worker, had just left the mall when she heard Kinsey's screams. She ran to the scene as the assailant took Kinsey's keys from her purse and entered the vehicle. Kelley approached Kinsey and pulled her from behind the vehicle as the assailant quickly backed it from its space, striking another

car forcefully as he did so. The women sought safety between other parked cars as the assailant drove from the scene. He was later apprehended by police. Kinsey was taken to the hospital, where she was treated for a fractured nose and contusions. She recovered. 82077-9310



JOSEPH F. KELLY, SR.
Levittown, Pennsylvania

Joseph F. Kelly, Sr., died attempting to save Jeffrey Williams from being struck by a vehicle, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 18, 2008. At night, Williams, 43, entered an interstate highway in a wheelchair by going the wrong way on a ramp. Kelly, 55, driver, was approaching on the highway in his vehicle at that time. He parked in a safety zone just past the ramp, donned a reflective vest, and crossed the highway to Williams, calling out to him. Kelly was attempting to move Williams from his position at the far shoulder as a pickup truck approached on the highway, moved onto the shoulder without slowing, and struck them. Both men died at the scene. 81026-9303



MICHAEL DAVID LANDRY
Regina, Saskatchewan

Michael David Landry helped to rescue Julie E. Wharram from burning, Armstrong, British Columbia, July 23, 2007. Wharram, 25, was the driver of an automobile that, at night, left the highway, went down an embankment, and overturned onto its roof. Flames erupted in the front of the car and issued from its exposed underside. Wharram was trapped inside the car, suspended upside down by her safety belt. Motorists, including Landry, 21, electrician, and two friends, drove upon the scene and stopped. After one of his friends crawled partway into the car through the window of the driver's door and attempted to free Wharram, Landry and the two friends fought the flames with available aids. They reduced them only momentarily, and the fire spread to the interior of the car. Landry obtained a knife from another motorist, crawled partway through the driver's window, and cut Wharram's

safety belt. As he maneuvered her toward the window, his two friends reached inside and grasped her, and the three men pulled her from the vehicle. They carried her away, flames spreading to engulf the car shortly. Wharram required lengthy hospitalization for extensive and serious burns and other injuries. Landry was treated at the scene for cuts to his feet and legs, and he recovered. 81139-9290



DALTON LEWAND

Tallahassee, Florida

Dalton Lewand helped to save John D. Cameron from burning, Tallahassee, Florida, July 5, 2008. Cameron, 73, was the driver of a hatchback automobile that was broadsided in an intersection. The force of the impact caused the car's fuel tank to rupture, and the car burst into flame at its rear, with flames then spreading through the car's interior. Nearby, Lewand, 34, assistant chief engineer, witnessed the accident. He immediately responded to the driver's side of the burning car, opened the driver's door, and unfastened John's safety belt. Joined by another man who witnessed the accident and who helped to save Cameron's wife, Lewand reached into the car, grasped Cameron, who was dazed, and pulled him from the vehicle. They took him to safety as flames in the interior of the car were reaching the front seats. When firefighters arrived within minutes, the car was engulfed by flames. Cameron and his wife required hospital treatment for their injuries, but they were not burned. 81546-9316



JOHN A. LLOYD

Fernandina Beach, Florida

John A. Lloyd helped to save William G. Wynne from drowning, Fernandina Beach, Florida, May 25, 2007. William, 7, and his father were swimming in the Atlantic Ocean when a strong current prevented them from returning to shore. Lloyd, 64, retired teacher, was walking on the beach in

the vicinity when he heard William's father shout for help. Lloyd immediately waded and swam out to them, reaching them at a point about 150 feet from shore. The father shoved William toward Lloyd, who managed to grasp him by the fingertips in the rough water. Lloyd drew William into a firmer grasp, and William held to Lloyd's neck as Lloyd struggled to return to shore. Rough water conditions and the strong current thwarted his efforts. Seeing two lifeguards responding on the shore, Lloyd kept William afloat until they arrived. One of the lifeguards took William to safety as the other rescued Lloyd, who could no longer move his legs. Dragged from the surf, Lloyd was taken to the hospital, where he was treated for having nearly drowned. He recovered. William's father drowned. 81092-9244



ADAM W. LUCAS
Manchester, New Hampshire

Adam W. Lucas helped to save Lisa D. Ladd from burning, Sugar Hill, New Hampshire, September 6, 2008. Ladd, 54, was the driver and sole occupant of an automobile that left an interstate highway, struck an embankment, and rolled onto its passenger side. Fire erupted on the engine. Other motorists, including Lucas, 22, technical support specialist, stopped at the scene. Lucas approached the burning vehicle and reached through the open window of the driver's door but was unsuccessful in freeing Ladd from her safety belt. Another motorist joined him at the burning car and with a special tool cut Ladd's shoulder belt while Lucas supported her to keep her from dropping to the bottom of the vehicle. The other motorist then mounted the car, reached inside, and cut Ladd's lap belt. The men maneuvered her from the vehicle moments before flames increased to engulf it. Ladd required hospitalization for treatment of her injuries, but she was not burned. 81549-9298



BETH MACDONALD

Franklin, New Hampshire

Beth MacDonald died attempting to save Molly J. and Jennifer R. MacDonald from burning, Franklin, New Hampshire, March 23, 2008. Sisters Molly, 11, and Jennifer, 9, were spending the night on the second floor of their family's carriage house when an accidental fire erupted on the first floor. From the main house, the girls' father observed smoke in the yard and awakened their mother, MacDonald, 40, teacher's assistant. While the father reported the fire, MacDonald exited the main house and went to the carriage house for the girls. The father followed her there, but deteriorating conditions thwarted his entry. Firefighters located Molly, Jennifer, and MacDonald in the structure, all victims of smoke inhalation. 81106-9251



JOSHUA E. MATTISON

Fort Ann, New York

Joshua E. Mattison helped to save Charles L. Mingo from drowning, Queensbury, New York, April 2, 2008. Ice fishing on Harris Bay of Lake George, Mingo, 62, was returning to the bank when he broke through weakened ice into water about 15 feet deep and could not climb back out. Mattison, 24, who was a yard worker for a marina on the bay in the vicinity, was alerted to the situation and joined other marina employees at one of the facility's docks. Although ice on the bay was deteriorating, opening sections of water, Mattison and one of the other employees stepped onto the ice and, taking a life ring with attached line, made their way about 800 feet toward Mingo, crawling the last several feet. The other employee threw the ring to Mingo but, lacking traction, could not pull him out. Having to cross a pressure ridge in the ice that was between them, Mattison joined him, and, bracing their feet into the slushy surface of the ice, they pulled Mingo out of the open water, Mattison breaking through the ice with his foot at one point. They dragged him away from the hole and toward the bank, where firefight-

ers were responding. Mattison and the other employee returned to the bank as firefighters removed Mingo from the ice by means of a hovercraft. He was taken to the hospital, where he was detained for treatment of hypothermia. He recovered. 81189-9249



JAMES P. MCCASKEY

Bartlett, Tennessee

James P. McCaskey helped to save George S. McLain, Sr., and George S. McLain, Jr., from drowning, Pensacola, Florida, July 22, 2008. While in wadable water of the Gulf of Mexico, McLain, 47, was knocked down by a wave and then carried seaward by a strong current. His son, George, 17, swam to him with a short surfboard. Both mounted the board but were unable to make progress toward shore. On the beach, McCaskey, 42, vacationing firefighter, became aware of the situation. Towing a short surfboard, he swam out to McLain and his son and placed McLain, who was nearly exhausted, on it. Making little if any progress against the current and overtaking waves, McCaskey kept McLain's head out of the water until two lifeguards responded from shore. Using rescue aids for McLain and George, the lifeguards and McCaskey struggled to swim from the current, towing them. They reached shore safely. McLain and George required hospital treatment, McLain for having nearly drowned. McCaskey was fatigued, but he recovered. 82008-9318



JEFFREY M. MCNEIL

Midwest City, Oklahoma

Jeffrey M. McNeil attempted to rescue John H. Gumm from burning, Midwest City, Oklahoma, March 22, 2008. Gumm, 78, lay in the hall of his one-story house after fire broke out at night in the living room. On duty, McNeil, 32, police officer, responded to the scene, where he found significant flames issuing from the house and blocking its front door. He went to the rear

of the structure, where he learned that Gumm was still inside. Despite the close proximity of the flames and intense heat and dense smoke that restricted breathing and visibility, McNeil entered the house through the rear door and, seeing Gumm about 10 feet ahead, crawled to him. He grasped Gumm by the feet and, walking backward, dragged him to the rear door, where another officer helped to take Gumm from the house and away. Gumm was pronounced dead at the scene. McNeil suffered smoke inhalation, for which he required hospital treatment. He recovered. 81114-9256



DEREK C. MERMAN

Lake Grove, New York

Derek C. Merman attempted to save Gardy Pierre-Jacques from drowning, Hampton Bays, New York, July 25, 2008. While standing in wadable water near shore at an Atlantic Ocean beach, Pierre-Jacques, 25, was overtaken by a wave and carried farther out by a strong current. He called for help. Merman, 18, construction worker, was on the beach in the vicinity and was alerted to the situation. Although he could not then see Pierre-Jacques, Merman immediately entered the water with his short surfboard and paddled out. He found Pierre-Jacques at a point about 300 feet from shore, unresponsive and nearly submerged. Merman positioned him on his board and started to swim toward shore, towing him. About halfway in, they became caught in a rip current, which Merman escaped by swimming parallel with the beach. He resumed swimming toward shore and with effort reached wadable water, where others took Pierre-Jacques to the beach and attempted to revive him. Pierre-Jacques was taken to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Merman was tired, but he recovered. 81462-9317



RICHARD W. MESERVE

Falmouth, Maine

Richard W. Meserve saved a girl from drowning, Scarborough, Maine, July 3, 2008. While swimming in the Atlantic Ocean with her short surfboard, a 9-year-old girl was carried farther from the beach and a few hundred feet along it, into a vicinity of large rocks over which waves broke. Meserve, 42, teacher, was at the beach when he became aware of the situation. He entered the water with a broken section of a short surfboard and swam out through the rough water to the girl. Re-establishing her on her board, Meserve instructed her to kick strongly, and then he placed his hand on her back as he swam alongside her, using his section of board as a flotation device. They proceeded along the shore to get past the rocks and then headed directly in, to the point in wadable water from which others assisted them to the beach. The girl was not injured. Meserve was nearly exhausted, but he recovered.

81482-9272



MICHAEL PAUL MIZZONE

Orange, Connecticut

Michael Paul Mizzone rescued Josef R. Bruckuf from burning, Orange, Connecticut, February 12, 2009. Bruckuf, 82, lay unconscious on the kitchen floor of his one-story house after an accidental fire broke out in the adjoining living room. His neighbor, Mizzone, 47, carpenter business representative, discovered the fire and, barefoot, ran to Bruckuf's front door. Deteriorating conditions, including flames breaching a front window, precluded entry there. Mizzone then went to the back door, opened it to dense smoke, and entered the house. He started to crawl through the kitchen but had to retreat for fresh air. On a second attempt, Mizzone crawled into the kitchen and found Bruckuf at the opposite end of the room. He grasped Bruckuf and crawled back to the door, dragging him, again having to retreat for air before

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he removed Bruckuf from the house. Flames grew quickly to fill that end of the structure. Bruckuf was hospitalized for treatment of serious burns and died of them six days later. Mizzzone also required hospital treatment, for smoke inhalation, and he recovered. 81960-9307



JOEL EDMOND MOODY

St. Simons Island, Georgia

Joel Edmond Moody saved Sarah M. Wagner from drowning, St. Simons Island, Georgia, July 23, 2008. Wagner, 19, her younger sister, and a friend were on a sandbar in the Atlantic Ocean about 300 feet off the beach when the incoming tide stranded them there. Others on the beach called 911, and responders included firefighters who were neither trained nor fully equipped for water rescue. Fearing there was insufficient time for a Coast Guard unit to arrive, one of the firefighters entered the water with a rescue tube, as did Moody, 45, teacher, who had been walking on the beach. Having to swim across a strong lateral current and against the incoming tide, the men made their way to the sandbar, Moody encountering difficulty en route from a cramp. With Wagner positioned across the rescue tube, Moody held to it and swam ashore as the firefighter returned to the beach with the two other girls. Moody was nearly exhausted, and he recovered. 81471-9296



DWIGHT A. MOORE

Aliquippa, Pennsylvania

Dwight A. Moore saved Kara M. Freeman from burning, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, May 23, 2008. Freeman, 18, was asleep in her bedroom on the top floor of her family's 2.5-story house after fire broke out at night in the kitchen and began to spread rapidly. After shouting to awaken her, Freeman's mother fled the structure and attracted the attention of a neighbor, Moore, 33, welder. Moore entered the house through the front door. Learning Freeman's location, he proceeded through dense smoke up the stairs to the second and attic levels. He alerted Freeman to the fire and, as

she was confused, pushed her to the head of the stairs. She descended to the first floor and stumbled outside to safety. Moore followed her but encountered difficulty breathing on the second floor and returned to the attic for air. He then descended the stairs to the first floor and exited the house. Flames spread to the second and attic levels of the structure and destroyed it. Moore suffered smoke inhalation and was treated at the scene, but he recovered.

81292-9273



MARK C. MOORE

Tallahassee, Florida

Mark C. Moore helped to save Eleanor P. and John D. Cameron from burning, Tallahassee, Florida, July 5, 2008. Eleanor, 67, was the passenger in a hatchback automobile that was being driven by her husband John, 73, when it was broadsided in an intersection. The force of the impact caused the car's fuel tank to rupture, and the car burst into flame at its rear, with flames then spreading through the car's interior. Motorists, including Moore, 48, physician, witnessed the accident. He ran to the passenger side of the burning car and with another man reached inside, grasped Eleanor, who was unconscious, and removed her from the vehicle. After they carried her to safety, Moore returned to the burning car and joined a third rescuer, who had opened the driver's door. They grasped John, who was dazed, pulled him from the vehicle, and took him to safety as flames in the interior of the car were reaching the front seats. When firefighters arrived within minutes, the car was engulfed by flames. Eleanor and John required hospital treatment for their injuries, but they were not burned. 81263-9315



HENRY W. MOTT IV

Middletown, Rhode Island

Henry W. Mott IV helped to rescue Keith T. Ulich from burning, Middletown, Rhode Island, July 3, 2008. Ulich, 38, and two others were aboard a light aircraft that crashed into trees just beyond an airport runway. It landed upright and broke into flames, which spread into the cockpit. Residents of a nearby neighborhood, including Mott, 42, illustrator, heard the crash and responded to the scene. Mott approached the burning airplane and called out to see if there were survivors. Ulich responded, extending an arm through the cockpit doorway. Despite intense heat and growing flames, Mott went up to the airplane, receiving a burn to his forehead, grasped Ulich by the arm, and pulled him partway onto the wing. Another neighborhood resident who had responded joined Mott at the wing. The two men grasped Ulich and pulled him the remaining distance out of the airplane and to the ground. They then removed their shirts to extinguish flames on him. Ulich was severely burned and died 10 weeks later. The two other occupants of the airplane died at the scene. Mott required hospital treatment for the burn to his forehead, and he recovered. 81417-9282



ALLEN DREW NELSON

Brooklyn, New York

Allen Drew Nelson saved Josephine Harrison from drowning, Dotsero, Colorado, July 14, 2008. Harrison, 36, was separated from her inner tube while floating down the Colorado River, and she lost consciousness in the cold, swift water. Nelson, 29, laborer, had been fishing on a bank of the river and saw her approach. He entered the water for her and, directing his course at an angle to intercept her downstream, bounced off the river's bed until he was in water over his depth. He then swam to the point at which he intercepted Harrison. Securing a hold of her, Nelson swam to the opposite bank,

which was closer, the current taking him and Harrison 200 feet farther downstream. They were aided from the river by others. Harrison required hospital treatment, and she recovered. Nelson was tired and cold after the rescue, and he too recovered. 81494-9288



TERRY RAY ODOM

Naples, Florida

Terry Ray Odom helped to save Ray J. Davis from drowning, East Naples, Florida, July 3, 2008. Davis, 55, was the driver of a sport utility vehicle that left the roadway, entered a golf course lake, and began to submerge, upright, in water about 25 feet deep. Driving behind him, Odom, 49, business operator, witnessed the accident. He parked and ran to the lake, removing his shirt and shoes. With the vehicle then about 25 feet from the bank, Odom waded and swam to it. After attempting unsuccessfully to open its driver's door, he reached through the door's open window, grasped Davis, and attempted to pull him out, but again without success. Odom then climbed through a window into the vehicle as it continued to submerge. Another man who had witnessed the accident also swam out to the vehicle. As he reached through the driver's door window and pulled on Davis, Odom grasped Davis by the torso and pushed on him. They struggled, as Davis's leg was caught on the steering wheel. Davis became free as the vehicle submerged. The other man took him to the surface and swam to the bank with him as Odom climbed through the window of the passenger door and surfaced. He too swam to the bank. Davis required a month's hospitalization, and Odom sustained a laceration to his foot, from which he recovered. 81481-9263



TANYA M. O'DONNELL

West Harrison, New York

Tanya M. O'Donnell helped to save Kinley S. McDonald from drowning, Chatham, Massachusetts, August 31, 2008. Kinley, 10, and her father were swept from a sandbar near the entrance to Chatham Harbor into deeper water of the Atlantic Ocean. They struggled against a strong current that took them farther from shore. Tanya, 17, an off-duty lifeguard from another municipality, was among the beachgoers who observed their plight. She waded and swam to them and supported Kinley but could make no progress against the current in returning to shore. A harbor patrol boat reached them at a point about 300 feet from the beach and, leaving Tanya with a life jacket, returned Kinley's father to shore for emergency medical care. Tanya donned the life jacket and continued to support Kinley as they were carried farther out. Another harbor patrol boat reached them at a point about 750 feet from the beach, and they were returned to shore. Kinley and her father were taken to the hospital, where Kinley was treated for hypothermia. Her father drowned. Tanya was exhausted and cold, but she recovered. 81541-9302



KENNETH A. OEDEWALDT

Mapleton, Illinois

Kenneth A. Oedewaldt saved David L. Peterson from burning, Mapleton, Illinois, March 7, 2008. Peterson, 36, lay semiconscious on the floor of a one-story church after fire broke out in the building's furnace room. A member of the church who was driving nearby, Oedewaldt, 63, retired chemical plant employee, was flagged down and alerted to the fire. Learning that Peterson was inside the wooden structure, Oedewaldt attempted to gain entry through the back door, but it was locked. He then went to the front of the building, opened the door, and shouted for Peterson, who gave a weak response. Oedewaldt entered the smoke-filled church, went to the addition at the rear of the building, where the furnace room was housed, and found Peterson. In the dense smoke, Oedewaldt fumbled with the lock on the back

door but was able to open the door. After stepping outside for air, he returned to Peterson, grasped him, and dragged him outside to safety. As they were leaving the church, an explosion in the furnace room spread flames, which grew to engulf the building, destroying it. Both men sustained minor smoke inhalation, and they recovered. 81397-9260



FRANCIS WILLIAM O'HARA

Riverside, Rhode Island

Francis William O'Hara attempted to save Jose A. Orellana from drowning, Narragansett, Rhode Island, July 16, 2007. Orellana, 43, was swimming in the Atlantic Ocean when a rip current took him farther from shore and prevented him from returning. On the beach in the vicinity, O'Hara, 48, an off-duty firefighter, became aware of the situation. He waded and swam to Orellana, reaching him at a point about 150 feet out. O'Hara hooked Orellana by the arm and began to tow him to shore, but en route, Orellana went limp, submerging his face. O'Hara repositioned him and continued toward shore, where others in wadable water took Orellana to the beach. O'Hara performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation on Orellana until emergency personnel responded. Orellana was taken to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead of drowning. 81129-9253



JORGE L. OROZCO-SANCHEZ

Firestone, Colorado

Jorge L. Orozco-Sanchez saved Peyton and Morgen Nicklas from burning, Lucerne, Colorado, October 28, 2008. Peyton, 4, and Morgen, 1, remained strapped in their car seats in the back seat of their mother's sport utility vehicle after the vehicle's head-on collision with a tractor-trailer. Flames broke out at the front ends of both vehicles, which remained in contact. Orozco-Sanchez, 30, was the driver of the tractor-trailer. He exited his rig, went to the sport utility vehicle, and tried unsuccessfully to open the back door on its passenger side. Using a fire extinguisher, he broke out that door's window.

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Orozco-Sanchez then extended his upper body inside the burning vehicle, released Peyton from her car seat, and removed her through the window. After taking Peyton a safe distance away, Orozco-Sanchez returned to the vehicle, approaching it on its driver's side, which was aflame. Using a fire extinguisher, he put out the flames on the vehicle's back door and with difficulty opened it. Orozco-Sanchez extended his upper body inside, freed Morgen from her car seat, and removed her from the vehicle. After carrying her to safety, Orozco-Sanchez went back toward the vehicle for the girls' mother, but he was unable to get close to it because of intolerable heat and flames. The girls' mother died at the scene. Peyton and Morgen were hospitalized for treatment of their injuries, but they were not burned. Orozco-Sanchez, who singed his hair, was taken to the hospital for treatment of minor injury, from which he recovered. 81706-9287



CASEY MARIE PEIRCE

Calgary, Alberta

Casey Marie Peirce saved a man and woman from drowning, Canmore, Alberta, July 26, 2008. A man and woman, 49, called for help after their 16-foot aluminum canoe capsized on Spray Lakes Reservoir. They held to the canoe, becoming hypothermic in the mountain lake's 50-degree water. Peirce, 30, communications manager, and her parents and sister were riding bicycles on the bank in that vicinity, which was remote, and became aware of the situation. Peirce removed her shoes, entered the water, and swam to the couple, who were at about midpoint in the 2,460-foot-wide lake. Grasping a rope attached to the canoe and wrapping it around her wrist, Peirce began to swim back to the bank, towing the canoe and its victims. The cold sapped her strength in the arduous swim, which took about 45 minutes. When she was close to the bank, her father threw one end of a rope, with a buoy attached, to her. She grasped it, and her father pulled her, with the canoe, the rest of the way in. Peirce's parents took the couple from the lake and tended to them as Peirce, too tired to move, rested in wadable water until she too was removed from the lake. Peirce was nearly exhausted, hypothermic, and sore, and she developed a cold but recovered. (See photo, p. 68.) 81455-9274



DARRYL A. PUTZ

Manchester, Iowa

Darryl A. Putz rescued Harold L. Minor, Jr., from burning, Ryan, Iowa, December 19, 2007. Minor, 46, was the driver of a tractor-trailer that crashed into two other rigs that had collided in heavy fog on a state highway. Injured and dazed, he was trapped in the wreckage of his truck tractor, which was leaking diesel fuel, as flames erupted there and entered the cab. Another motorist, Putz, 46, maintenance worker, had come across the first accident and witnessed the second. He climbed into the cab of Minor's truck from its passenger side and dislodged and removed wreckage that blocked his access to Minor. As flames had spread to Minor's clothing, Putz covered him with a curtain from the wreckage and then, after a struggle, succeeded in freeing Minor. Grasping him about the arms, Putz pulled Minor out of the truck and dragged him to safety moments before flames increased in the cab. Minor required extensive hospitalization for treatment of severe burns. Putz recovered from a slight burn to one hand. 81510-9308



ROBERT STANFORD RAND

San Clemente, California

Robert Stanford Rand helped to save a woman from falling, Laguna Hills, California, August 10, 2008. A 22-year-old woman stood outside a chain-link fence atop a parapet of an overpass and threatened to jump the 50 feet to the highway below. Rand, 43, highway patrol officer, responded to the scene, as did other officers, including sheriff's deputies. As some of the officers attempted to secure the woman by holds through the fence, Rand stepped onto the inches-wide edge of the parapet outside the fence and moved about 65 feet along it to her, one of the deputies following him. They grasped the woman by the arms, but she struggled against them as she dangled from their grip over the highway. A second deputy went to the outside of the fence and helped Rand and the first deputy pull the woman back up to the parapet.

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They held her to the fence until a fire truck equipped with a bucket apparatus responded to the scene and lowered the woman, and then the officers, to ground level. Rand sustained scrapes to his arms and wrists, and he suffered back pain. He recovered. 81499-9293



SUSAN M. RICARD

Webster, Massachusetts

Susan M. Ricard saved John Benoit from drowning, Webster, Massachusetts, July 18, 2008. Benoit, 58, and his young granddaughter struggled against rough waters of Webster Lake after their sailboat capsized in one of the lake's coves during an evening storm that approached suddenly. The storm brought thunder, lightning, and winds that were recorded as high as 33 m.p.h. From her home on the bank of the cove, Ricard, 37, teacher, was watching the storm over the lake and witnessed the accident. She immediately ran to the water and, taking two child's short surfboards, entered it from the end of her dock. Clad in pajamas, she swam with difficulty against the wind and waves, which were white-capped, to Benoit, who was about 150 feet from the bank. En route she encountered his granddaughter, who was wearing a life jacket, and, reassuring her, directed her toward the bank. Ricard continued to Benoit and placed one of the boards under him. Using the second board for herself, she linked arms with Benoit and returned to the dock with him, aided by the waves. Benoit was taken to the hospital for observation. 81463-9276



AARON D. ROBINSON

Cambridge, Maryland

Aaron D. Robinson died attempting to save Jairus A. Robinson from drowning, Cambridge, Maryland, February 11, 2007. At a point about 20 feet from the bank, Jairus, 8, broke through ice partially covering a pond at the housing development where his family lived. His brother Aaron, 12, student, was nearby on the bank with friends when they saw him in the water. Aaron

immediately ran to the pond and made his way out on the ice toward Jairus. As he reached for him, Aaron also broke through the ice. Jairus submerged, as did Aaron, after a brief struggle. Police and rescue personnel responded shortly and removed the boys from the pond. They were taken to the hospital but could not be revived. 80099-9278



DAVID PATRICK ROSAMILIA
Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania

David Patrick Rosamilia removed Ronald L. Weamer from a burning vehicle, Claysburg, Pennsylvania, April 24, 2008. Weamer, 61, remained in the driver’s seat of his car after a nighttime accident in which the car left the roadway, struck a tree head on, and caught fire in its engine compartment. Driving nearby, Rosamilia, 38, a general contractor who was on duty as a part-time police officer, was flagged down and alerted to the accident. He responded to the scene and tried to open the driver’s door of Weamer’s car, but it was jammed. Successful in opening the passenger door, he entered the vehicle and grasped Weamer but then found that Weamer’s leg was caught in the wreckage. Despite smoke and fumes in the car and flames entering it through a hole in the windshield, Rosamilia lay across the console and worked to free Weamer. Reaching under his arms and pulling on his leg, Rosamilia freed Weamer and, backing, pulled him from the car. Another man helped to move him farther away. Weamer was pronounced dead at the scene of injuries received in the crash, and Rosamilia sustained smoke inhalation, which required hospital treatment. He recovered in a week. 81680-9280



BRANDON ROTHROCK

Ellenboro, North Carolina

Brandon Rothrock helped to rescue Mamie T. Gumbs from burning, Forest City, North Carolina, March 19, 2009. In the middle of the night, Gumbs, 80, was in her bedroom after fire erupted in the adjoining living room and grew significantly. A police officer, Rothrock, 25, was driving by when he saw smoke and fire issuing from the residence. He reported the fire and then, opening the living room door, heard Gumbs yelling for help. Widespread flames made entry through the living room impossible. Rothrock and another officer who had responded then gained access to the residence through another door, which opened to a hall leading to Gumbs's bedroom. Rothrock entered the structure and crawled to the bedroom doorway, where he saw Gumbs lying on the floor. Dense smoke and intense heat were intolerable, forcing him from the building. The other officer then entered the structure and proceeded through the hall, but he too was nearly overcome by conditions and retreated. Entering a second time, Rothrock ran into the bedroom, which was aflame. He grasped Gumbs and pulled her to the bedroom doorway before having to leave again. After the other officer re-entered the structure and pulled Gumbs closer to the door, Rothrock joined him in re-entering again, and they pulled Gumbs outside to safety. Gumbs required hospitalization for treatment of severe burns. 82102-9320



SETH C. RUSSELL

Portland, Oregon

Seth C. Russell helped to rescue Abilsai Morales-Roblero from burning, Portland, Oregon, August 30, 2008. Unconscious, Morales-Roblero, 20, was trapped in the front passenger seat of a sport utility vehicle that crashed into a hillside at night. The back end of the vehicle caught fire, and flames spread into the passenger compartment. Russell, 45, real estate broker, drove upon the scene and learned from others there that the vehicle was occupied. He mounted the front part of the wreckage and helped force open the front pas-

senger door. Although flames by then had reached the back of the front seats, Russell extended his upper body into the vehicle and worked to free Morales-Roblero, burning his hand when he attempted to open Morales-Roblero's safety belt. Russell called out for a knife. A police officer who had arrived by then responded to the vehicle with a knife. As flames issued high off the rear of the vehicle, the officer extended his upper body through the passenger door and freed Morales-Roblero of his safety belt. The two rescuers then grasped Morales-Roblero by the arms, pulled him out, and moved him away shortly before flames grew to engulf the vehicle. Two other occupants of the vehicle died at the scene. Morales-Roblero was hospitalized for treatment of severe injuries, which included second-degree burns. Russell also received hospital treatment, for smoke inhalation and minor burns to his hands and forearms. He recovered. 81602-9305



MICHAEL P. SCHMIDT

Hickory Creek, Texas

Michael P. Schmidt helped to save Alexandra L. Stuart from drowning, Lewisville, Texas, June 6, 2008. Stuart, 23, was the driver of a sport utility vehicle that, at night, accidentally entered Lake Lewisville at a marina boat launch and began to sink in water 25 feet deep. She was unsuccessful in breaking her way out of the vehicle. Off duty, Schmidt, 38, firefighter, was fishing with a friend from one of the nearby docks. Immediately running on the docks to a point opposite the vehicle, Schmidt removed his shoes, entered the lake, and swam about 50 feet to the vehicle, which by then was about half submerged. Unable to gain access through the windshield, which Stuart had broken, Schmidt partially opened the driver's door. As water filled the vehicle, taking it completely under, he opened the door wide. Submerging with the vehicle, Schmidt reached inside, grasped Stuart by her arms, and pulled her out. They surfaced. Schmidt's friend, who also had swum out, took Stuart to a nearby wooden pier, Schmidt following. They exited the lake there. Stuart was treated at the scene for minor cuts, from which she recovered. 81306-9271



A. J. SKIPTUNAS III

Wrightsville, Pennsylvania

A. J. Skiptunas III rescued Mary E. Caldwell from an attacking dog, Windsor, Pennsylvania, October 6, 2007. Caldwell, 63, was campaigning in a neighborhood when an adult male dog of pit bull mix charged her, biting her severely on the leg and taking her to the pavement. Screaming, she attracted the attention of a friend, Skiptunas, 49, radiologist, who was nearby. Skiptunas immediately ran toward Caldwell as the dog was circling her. He called to the dog, which then turned to him and lunged. It bit him on the chest and then again, hard, on his right hand, locking its hold. Using his left hand, Skiptunas grasped the dog's collar and twisted it to choke the dog off him. Maintaining his hold, Skiptunas wrestled the dog to the pavement and pinned its head with his knee. Others arrived to secure the dog and tend to Caldwell. Both she and Skiptunas required hospital treatment for their bite wounds, and both required subsequent hospitalization, Skiptunas for two days. He was left with weakness in his right hand. 81413-9261



JASON WAYNE SPENCER

Columbia City, Indiana

Jason Wayne Spencer helped to save Lauren M. Coffee from burning, Columbia City, Indiana, February 21, 2008. Coffee, 18, was the driver of a four-door automobile that, at night, left a snowy highway at a bridge, went down a steep embankment, and came to rest on its roof in a creek about three feet deep. At some point, flames broke out on the vehicle and spread to its underside. Spencer, 35, deputy sheriff, responded to the scene and descended the embankment to the car. He emptied a fire extinguisher on the flames as a man who had arrived earlier was attempting to pull Coffee through the window of the driver's door. Spencer then grasped Coffee and helped in removing her from the vehicle and carrying her to the creek with others as something on the car exploded. Because the embankment was steep and icy, the men carried Coffee through the creek to a point under-

neath the bridge, where they rested briefly as smoke from the fire hung in the air there. Another explosion at the vehicle occurred. Other responders carried Coffee back to the level of the highway, and she was taken to the hospital for treatment of her injuries. Spencer was given oxygen at the scene for inhaling smoke. He recovered. 81745-9314



JOHN MIKEL THANOS

Chesterton, Indiana

John Mikel Thanos died attempting to help save Douglas P. Zehner from drowning, Chesterton, Indiana, September 14, 2008. Douglas, 11, became caught in the extremely swift current of water that was flooding a drainage ditch in his neighborhood after heavy rains. He shouted for help. The water flowed through a culvert under a roadway at the scene, and Douglas was swept into the culvert. Thanos, 74, retired custodian, and his son and daughter-in-law responded to the ditch from their nearby home. As his daughter-in-law went to the downstream end of the culvert, Thanos and his son went to its upstream end and entered the ditch. They too were swept into the culvert. Douglas emerged from the culvert and was aided to safety by Thanos's daughter-in-law. Responding rescue personnel located Thanos and his son in the culvert. They had drowned. Douglas took in water and was treated at the hospital. He recovered. 81589-9286



MARK JOHN THANOS

Chesterton, Indiana

Mark John Thanos died attempting to help save Douglas P. Zehner from drowning, Chesterton, Indiana, September 14, 2008. Douglas, 11, became caught in the extremely swift current of water that was flooding a drainage ditch in his neighborhood after heavy rains. He shouted for help. The water flowed through a culvert under a roadway at the scene, and Douglas was swept into the culvert. Thanos, 48, high school teacher, and his wife and father responded to the ditch from their nearby home. As Thanos's wife went

to the downstream end of the culvert, Thanos and his father went to its upstream end and entered the ditch. They too were swept into the culvert. Douglas emerged from the culvert and was aided to safety by Thanos's wife. Responding rescue personnel located Thanos and his father in the culvert. They had drowned. Douglas took in water and was treated at the hospital. He recovered. 81588-9285



TIMOTHY TONKIN

Smithtown, New York

Timothy Tonkin helped to save James A. Leone, Jr., from drowning, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, October 12, 2008. Leone, 39, was inside a sport utility vehicle that was submerging in Cold Spring Harbor at a point about 60 feet opposite a boat ramp. It was dark. The man who discovered the vehicle alerted authorities and, paddling a dingy out, attempted to gain access to it. Tonkin, 44, police officer, was dispatched to the scene. He swam to the vehicle, which by then was submerged in the deep water but for a few inches at its rear roofline. Using his metal baton, Tonkin broke the rear passenger-side window after striking it repeatedly. Tonkin reached into the vehicle through the broken-out window, grasped Leone, and pulled him out, but Leone's weight sent Tonkin deeper into the water. He surfaced but struck his face against the vehicle. The man in the dinghy had grasped Leone and with Tonkin held him to that vessel as they maneuvered it to the bank. Leone and Tonkin were taken to the hospital, where Tonkin, who had broken a tooth, was treated for lacerations. He recovered. 81664-9292



CHLOE C. VAN ALSTINE

Wells, New York

Chloe C. Van Alstine helped to save William T. Trainor from drowning, Wells, New York, November 1, 2008. Trainor, 48, was the driver of a vehicle that left the roadway, entered Lake Algonquin, and began to sink in water 10 feet deep. He escaped the vehicle through a window and struggled to stay

afloat in the 45-degree water at a point about 90 feet from the bank. Chloe, 17, high school student, witnessed the accident from the opposite bank, where she had been jogging. She immediately ran across a nearby bridge to the other side of the lake, removed her shoes, and entered the water, its coldness startling her. Swimming to Trainor, Chloe grasped him to keep him from submerging and then started back to the bank with him. When they were met by a man responding in a boat, Chloe and Trainor held to the boat as the man returned them to the bank. Trainor and Chloe were examined by emergency medical personnel but were uninjured. 81741-9281



ROBERT VILLARREAL, JR.

San Antonio, Texas

Robert Villarreal, Jr., rescued a boy from assault, San Antonio, Texas, January 23, 2007. A 12-year-old boy was stabbed by his mother, who was mentally ill, in the kitchen of their home. The boy's brother, also stabbed, fled the house and attracted the attention of Villarreal, 45, customs and border protection officer, who was driving by. Villarreal stopped at the scene and followed the brother back to the house. As Villarreal approached it, he heard screaming through an open door to the kitchen. He entered the bloodied room and, unarmed, approached the mother, who was restraining the boy with one arm while pointing a kitchen knife and carving fork at his neck. Villarreal tried to convince the mother to release the boy, but she said repeatedly that she was going to kill him. Villarreal lunged at the mother, wrested her away from the boy, and forced her to the floor, where she released her hold on the weapons. He then dragged her outside and restrained her until police arrived. Both boys were hospitalized three days for treatment of stab wounds and lacerations. 80042-9294



FREDERICK L. VISCONTI

Danbury, Connecticut

Frederick L. Visconti rescued Robert J. Mitchell from burning, Danbury, Connecticut, May 24, 2008. Mitchell, 18, was in his bedroom on the second floor of his family's two-story house after an accidental fire broke out in that room. A neighbor, Visconti, 65, retired firefighter, smelled smoke and responded to the scene. He entered the house through its front door and learned that Mitchell was on the second floor. Visconti went up the stairs and, in dense smoke that severely limited visibility, crawled into Mitchell's bedroom, in which flames were growing. Finding Mitchell in his bed, he pulled him to the floor and into the hall. Visconti then aided Mitchell downstairs and outside to safety. Mitchell required hospital treatment for minor burns and smoke inhalation, and he recovered. 81278-9266

2008-2009 AWARD STATISTICS

MEDALS

Ninety-two Carnegie Medals were awarded in 2008, and 84 were awarded in 2009, bringing the total to 9,327 since the Hero Fund was established in 1904. To date, the Commission has considered 82,825 rescue acts.

Especially do we remember those who gave their lives saving or attempting to save others. Thirty-four such sacrifices were honored in 2008 and 2009, bringing the total to date to 1,940:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rosetta M. Albright | Fred Hunt, Jr. |
| R. Jason Altman | Joseph F. Kelly, Sr. |
| Ross McKay Barfuss | John A. Klang |
| Timothy Michael Barry | Travis Wayne Koehler |
| Randall Scott Brewer | Beth MacDonald |
| Courtney E. Butler | Kenneth W. Ringeisen |
| Rolando Campuzano, Sr. | Norman Jeffery Ringseth |
| Michael J. Carney | Aaron D. Robinson |
| Gregory J. Carson | Walter Rosenthal |
| Dominique Chatman | Brian K. Smith |
| Paul Cossalter | Giankarlo Squicimari |
| Shann Deon Day, Sr. | John Mikel Thanos |
| Shawn William Edele | Mark John Thanos |
| Robert Ferrell | Ronald Thomas |
| Craig M. Gouker | Dwayne D. Trotti |
| Kenneth D. Gurnon | Craig L. Wenner |
| Timothy B. Haas | Samara Marie White |

| | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| For continuing support of widows, widowers, and other dependents, and disabled heroes | \$294,445 | \$297,335 | \$16,170,756 |
| Monetary awards, including educational assistance, and medals | 716,594 | 679,468 | 15,750,146 |
| TOTALS | \$1,011,039 | \$976,803 | \$31,920,902 |

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

(shown with year of election)

A. H. Burchfield III 1987
Elizabeth H. Genter 2000
Thomas J. Hilliard, Jr. 1979
David McL. Hillman 1996
Linda T. Hills 2007
Peter J. Lambrou 2009
Mark Laskow 1992
Peter F. Mathieson¹ 2001
Christopher R. McCrady 1999
Priscilla J. McCrady 1989
Ann M. McGuinn 1992
Nancy L. Rackoff 2002
Frank Brooks Robinson 1966
Dan D. Sandman 2002
Kenneth G. Sawyer 2008
Arthur M. Scully, Jr. 1964
William P. Snyder III 1951
Gerald A. Solor² 2003
Sybil P. Veeder 1992
James M. Walton 1968
Thomas L. Wentling, Jr. 1991
Alfred W. Wishart, Jr. 1976
Carol A. Word 2003

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L. Bayley Buchanan 1975
Robert W. Off 1973
L. Evans Rose, Jr. 1979
George H. Taber³ 1979

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Priscilla J. McCrady,
Vice President
Walter F. Rutkowski, *Secretary*
and Executive Director
James M. Walton, *Treasurer*

¹Resigned February 20, 2008

²Resigned September 25, 2008

³Died September 20, 2008

⁴The President is ex officio a
member of each committee,
except Audit

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Thomas J. Hilliard, Jr.
Nancy L. Rackoff
Arthur M. Scully, Jr.

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Elizabeth H. Genter
Thomas J. Hilliard, Jr.
David McL. Hillman
Linda T. Hills
Peter J. Lambrou
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Priscilla J. McCrady
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Frank Brooks Robinson
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Kenneth G. Sawyer
Arthur M. Scully, Jr.
William P. Snyder III
James M. Walton
Alfred W. Wishart, Jr.
Carol A. Word

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